JOHJI MANABE'S

DRAKUUN

ドラクーン

THE HIDDEN WAR

DARK HORSE COMICS

DRAKUUN: THE HIDDEN WAR 1 OF 6

$2.95 US
$4.15 CAN

DIRECT SALES
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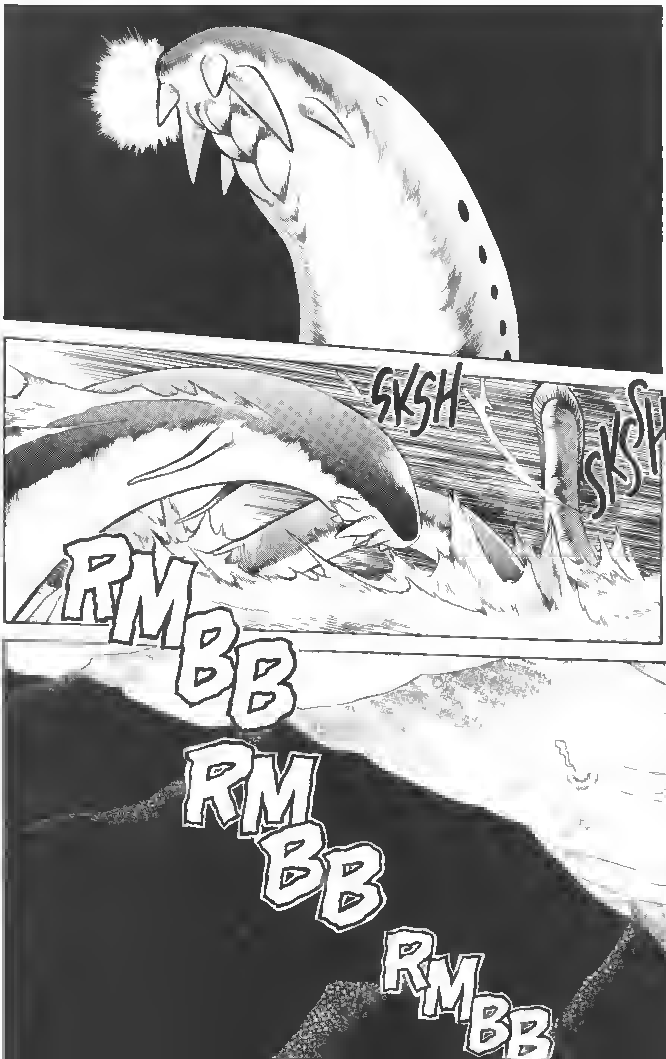
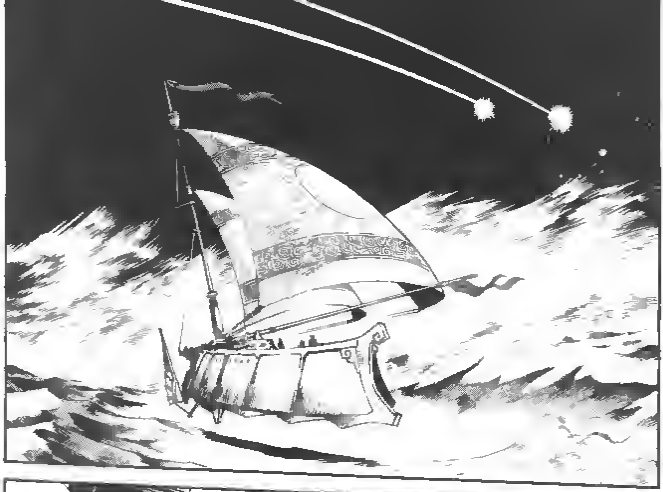

SKSH
SKSH
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB

RMBBRMBBRMBBRMBBRMBBRMBB
VMMMM
VMMMM
VMMMM
KCHANG
KCHANG
KPOF
KPOF
FWHSH



WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!
HUH? WHAT?
I DUNNO.. SOMETHING IN THE SKY.
SOME MORE GUYS HEADIN' FOR AKOGILAND JUST LIKE US, I BETCHA.
YEAH... THEY SAY FOLK ARE HEADIN' THERE FROM ALL OVER GRIFFEL.

YO! HOW'S THAT BEACON FROM AKOGILAND COMING IN?
NOT TOO BAD.
AS LONG AS WE CAN FOLLOW IT IN, WE'RE HOME FREE!
MY SWORD ARM'S BITCHIN' AT ME, MAN SAYS, "HURRY UP AND LET ME SHOW THOSE DAMN IMPERIALS WHAT I CAN DO!"
THAT SCRAWNY TWIG?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH

FWAM
VREEEEE
KLIK
WHAT WAS THAT, SCUM?!
HO! LOOKING FOR A FIGHT?!
HEY!! NO FIGHTING ONBOARD, DAMN IT!!
WHAM
FWUDD

VREEEEEE
VREEEE
KOMMANDANT ... ? WE HAVE A SIGNAL.
IS IT THE AKOGILAND BEACON?
YES, SIR! I'M SURE OF IT. THEY'RE TRANSMITTING EVERY SIX SECONDS. IT'S STRONG AND SOLID.
HMM. THAT FEEBLE SIGNAL THEY USED BEFORE WAS TOO WEAK FOR SHIPS WITHOUT HIGH-QUALITY RECEIVERS
I THINK WE CAN ASSUME A WHOLE FLOTILLA OF SMALL CRAFT IS RIDING THE NEW BEAM
THE FOOLS! THEY'RE PULLING OUT THE STOPS TO GET VOLUNTEERS, BUT THEY'RE ONLY DIGGING THEIR OWN GRAVE!

BEWARE, ALL YOU PIRATES WHO DARE DEFY THE EMPEROR!
I'LL TEACH YOU THE TRUE POWER OF ROMUNILIA!
RMBB
RMBB
VMMMMM
VMMMMM

AND NOT SO FAR AWAY, ANOTHER WARRIOR SETS COURSE FOR THE FIELD OF BATTLE...
VRAAA
VRAAAAAAAA
VRUPPP
BRPPP
VREEE
RAMUDA ...!
WHUP WHUP WHUP

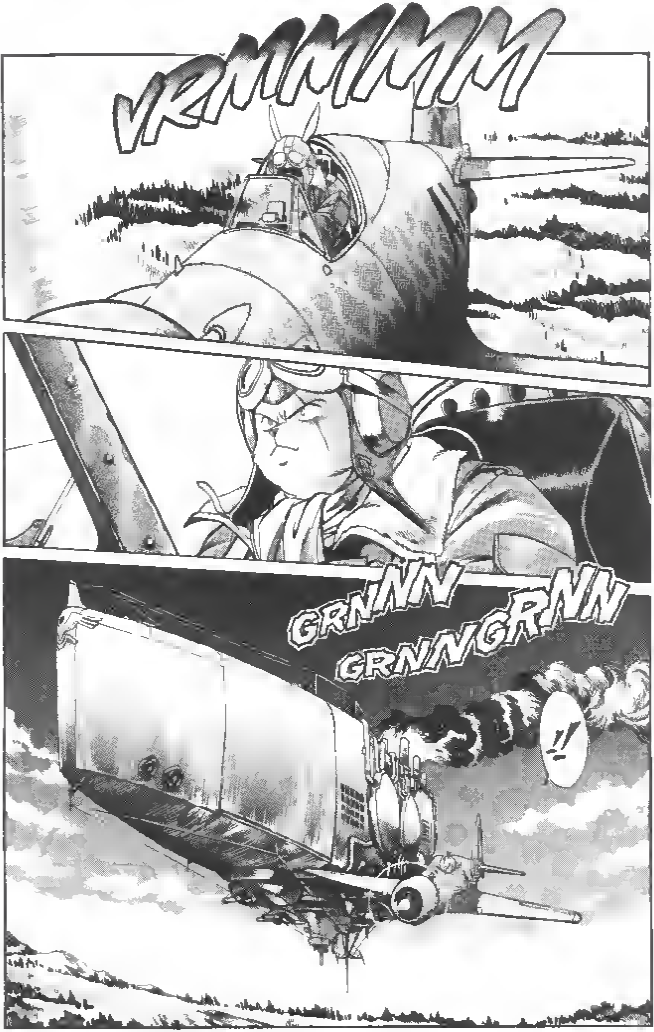
HEY, ALICE.
HOW'S YOUR PLANE FLYING ...?
WHAT'S UP?
IT'S NEVER BEEN BETTER! YOU TWO PATCHED UP THE BATTLE DAMAGE SO WELL IT'S LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED
I'VE GOT TO THANK OLD GASHU PERSONALLY. .
UM RAMUDA ...?
ARE . ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO GO?
ALICE, PLEASE! IF I DON'T FIGHT NOW, WHEN WILL I FIGHT AGAIN?!
BUT YOUR WAR IS OVER, RAMUDA!
IT ENDED THE DAY FARI'FRA* SURRENDERED TO THE EMPIRE! YOU FOUGHT WITH EVERYTHING YOU HAD FOR YOUR COUNTRY.. ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?!
ALICE!

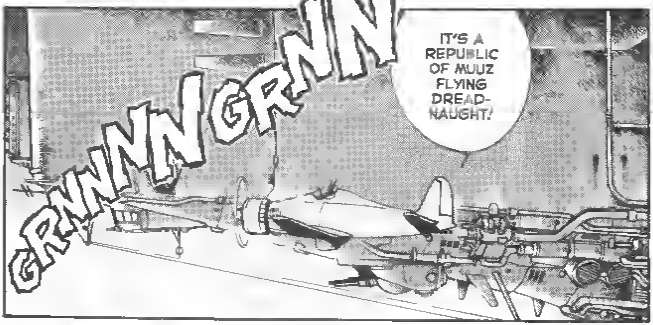
THE KINGDOM OF FAR F RA ONE OF THE CORNERSTONES OF THE ANTI-IMPERIAL ALLIANCE CENTERED AROUND LEDOMIAM IT FOUGHT ON FEROCIOUSLY AFTER LEDOMIAM WAS DESTROYED BUT IN THE END FELL TO OVERWHELMING IMPERIAL FORCES

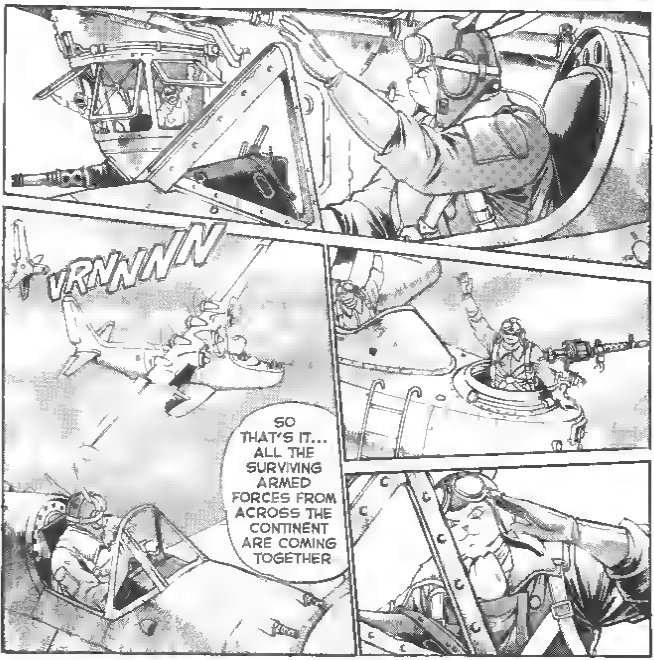
GRANDPA ...?!
DON'T MAKE TROUBLE FOR THE MAJOR.
NOW... ARE YOU FEELING AS SOUND AS YOUR AIRPLANE?
YES, SIR! THANKS TO YOUR KINDNESS, WE'RE BOTH AS GOOD AS NEW.
I'VE BEEN A BURDEN ON YOU FOR FAR TOO LONG.
BOTH YOU AND YOUR FIGHTER WERE A LOT TOUGHER THAN I DREAMED
HAH--DON'T BE FOOLED. WE'RE JUST A PAIR OF SHOT-UP HULKS. IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO KEEP US IN THE AIR!
HA, HA, HA...!
IT'S CLEAR AT ALTITUDE... NO STORMS COMING IN. YOU COULDN'T ASK FOR BETTER FLYING WEATHER.
AND I IMAGINE YOU'VE HEARD ENOUGH GOOD-BYES FROM TIRED OLD MEN...

GOD-SPEED IN BATTLE, RAMUDA.
I... I'LL P-PRAY FOR YOU...
NO TEARS, ALICE
...SO PROMISE ME YOU WON'T CRY.
I'LL COME BACK TO YOU. I PROMISE...
OH RAMUDA

VRAAAAA
K1


VRMMMMM
GRNNN
GRNNGRNN
!!

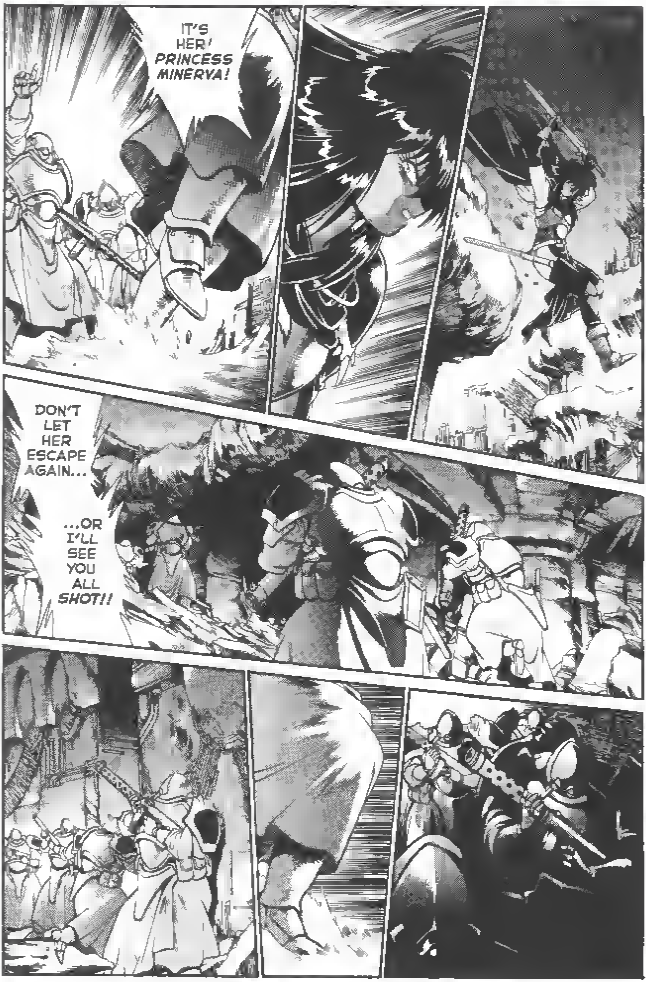

GRNNN GRNN
IT'S A REPUBLIC OF MUUZ FLYING DREAD-NAUGHT!


VRNNN
SO THAT'S IT... ALL THE SURVIVING ARMED FORCES FROM ACROSS THE CONTINENT ARE COMING TOGETHER

GRRNGRRNGRRN

WHISSHH

NNG!
DAMN!


IT'S HER! PRINCESS MINERVA!
DON'T LET HER ESCAPE AGAIN...
...OR I'LL SEE YOU ALL SHOT!!

IT'S DARK DOWN THERE SO USE YOUR IRs!!
C SQUAD CIRCLE TO THE LEFT! D SQUAD TAKE THE RIGHT!
DON'T BUNCH UP!
I DON'T HAVE MAPS FOR THE BASEMENT LEVELS, SO ALL SQUADS LAY TRACKING UNITS!

WHSSH
KCHOK
IT'S HER!! GET--
TOO LATE...
...YOU FOOLS!!
CHOK

HCHK
BRITT
DIE!
DIE!!
HMPH!
PAWNS!
GN
N

VMMMMM
WHAT THE HELL ARE THOSE DAMN GRUNTS DOING DOWN THERE?!
HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO CATCH ONE LOUSY BROAD, ANYWAY?!
LET'S SEE SOME GODDAMN ACTION!!
BKRAM
STOP THAT, YOU IDIOT! OUR OWN MEN ARE DOWN THERE!
WHO GIVES A SHIT! THEY'RE NO MATCH FOR MINERVA ANYWAY!
YAHOO!!
BKOOMBKOOM

WHAM
AAUGH!
WH-WHAT THE HELL?!
GOD-DAMN STUPID PILOTS!
KRRR

HAW HAW HAW! BET WE DEEP FRIED THE OCTOPUS LADY AND ANYTHING ELSE DOWN THERE.
NO WAY I'M WORKING OVERTIME AT THESE LOUSY WAGES.
HEY... WAIT A SEC... THERE'S SOME-THING...
INCOMING!!
BREAK LEFT/ BREAK--
KOM

=hahh=
=hff=
DAMN... THEY JUST KEEP ON COMING
STILL, WHAT A JOKE, EH? MINERVA, ONCE PRINCESS OF ALL SHE SURVEYED... NOW HIDING LIKE A RAT IN THE SEWER.
SLUCH

uh oh
WHOK
GKOK
SPLORT
EEK! EEK! YEEK!
GUH-ROSSSS!!
YUCK! GET OFF! YECCH! EEK!
SPLSH
SPLSH
SPLSH
KRAK

WELL, SHIT! IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT! FORGET THE TRACKERS, HE SAYS AND NOW WE'RE FRIGGIN' LOST!
STUFF A SOCK IN IT! YOU WERE LEADING!
HEY... WHA--
KR-LOSH
OOF...
WELL, LOOKY LOOKY HERE!

SPLASH
TIE HER UP!
COME ON!
I'D RATHER DIE, YOU COWARDS!
NO CAN DO. WE GOT STRICT ORDERS-- "BRING HER IN ALIVE."
STRAIGHT FROM EMPEROR KURGH HIMSELF.
"EMPEROR" KURGH ...?! YOU BASTARDS!
YOU PLEDGED YOUR ALLEGIANCE TO MY FATHER GUSTAV!
AND NOW YOU FOLLOW KURGH?!
WE DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHO THE EMPEROR IS!
WE JUST FOLLOW THE MEANEST MOTHER AROUND!
ON YOUR FEET!

TO BE CONTINUED!!

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KSSSHHH

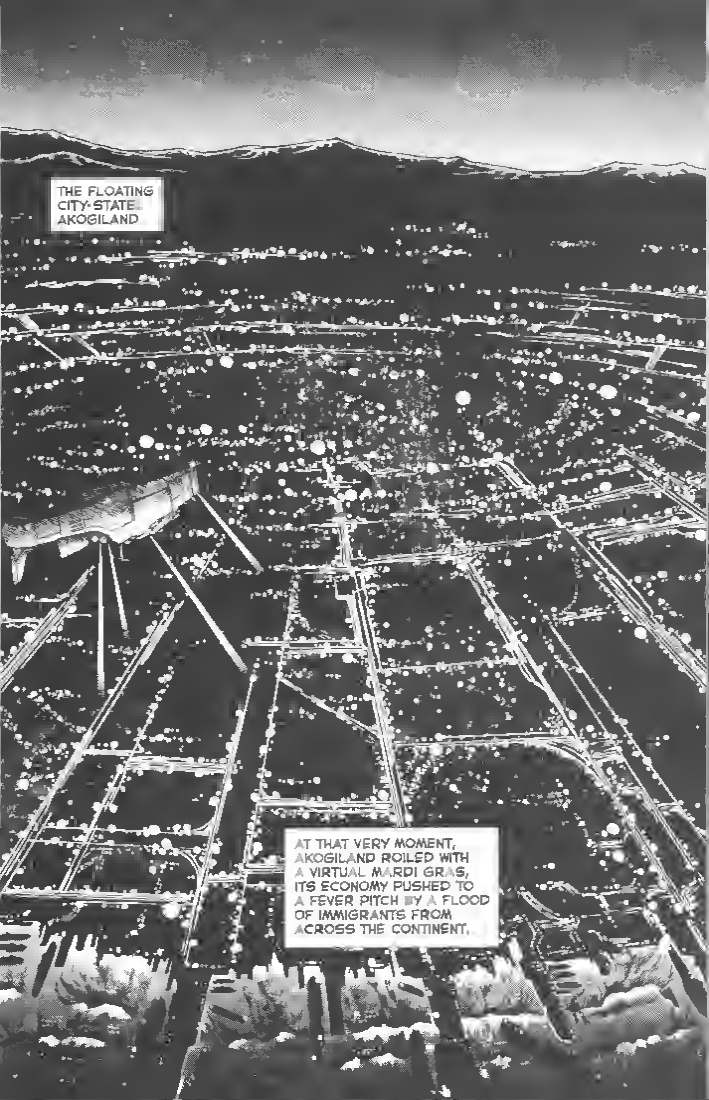
YO!
WHAT'S WRONG, KREITAS? YOU SHOULD BE OVERJOYED TO HAVE YOUR PRINCESS BACK.
INSTEAD YOU'RE DOWN HERE, MOPING LIKE A GIRL. IT'S *PATHETIC*.
I'M OKAY JUST PLEASE..
..LEAVE ME ALONE, OKAY?
YOU *STILL* WORRIED ABOUT THAT?
I TOLD YOU, BOY-- SHE WAS ALL HYPED UP WHEN SHE SAID THAT.
YEAH, I KNOW, BUT..
..BUT IT STILL CUTS ME TO THE QUICK.
YOU TRAITOR!!

YOUR BROTHER KRAISIS SOLD ME OUT TO KURGH!
IS THAT HOW YOU RETURN THE TRUST MY FATHER AND I PLACED IN YOU?!
VANISH FROM MY SIGHT! NEVER COME BEFORE ME AGAIN!!
IF EVER I SEE YOU AGAIN, I WILL DESTROY YOU!
B-BUT... PRINCESS ...!
BE GONE! I LOATHE THE VERY SIGHT OF YOUR FACE!!
HMM... YEAH, WELL, COME TO THINK OF IT... THAT WOULD PROBABLY GET ME DOWN, TOO.
NO, NO... YOU'RE RIGHT.
AT LEAST MY HIGHNESS IS SAFE AND UNHARMED! CAN THERE BE GREATER JOY THAN THIS?!
YEAH, WELL, IF YOU SAY SO

EEEEK!
BEL'IL ..?!
IT'S LADY MINERVA! SHE'S COLLAPSED IN THE SHOWER ROOM!
WHAT?! ARE YOU SURE?
WHAM!
AAAAH!
PRINCESS!

PRINCESS! LADY MINERVA! SPEAK TO ME!!
RUFUS! GIVE ME A HAND!
AND STOP OGLING HER, YOU CUR!!
PRINCESS!! HANG IN THERE!! I--
ZZZZZ
....
....
ZZZZZ
BWA HAW HAW! THIS IS RICH! SHE REALLY HAD YOU GOING!
H-HOW DARE YOU LAUGH AT ME!!
HOW EXHAUSTED SHE MUST BE! SAFE AT LAST, HER POOR, FRAYED SPIRIT LETS DOWN ITS GUARD... OH, SWEET, TENDER CREATURE...

IS THIS THE BEST YOU CAN DO? HAVE YOU NO DECENT BED FOR HER?!
GET A GRIP, BOY. THIS IS A BEAT UP OLD WARSHIP... IT'S NOT DESIGNED TO BE A ROYAL YACHT!
OR MAYBE SHE'S BETTER OFF IN YOUR ARMS, EH? WARM HER WITH HER STRONG YOUNG BODY...?
WHA-?!
HEH HEH HEH! I CAN SEE WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, YOU BAD BOY, YOU!
S-SILENCE!! YOU'RE DISTURBING HER MAJESTY'S REST!
GET OUT!


THE FLOATING CITY-STATE OF AKOGILAND
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, AKOGILAND ROILED WITH A VIRTUAL MARDI GRAS, ITS ECONOMY PUSHED TO A FEVER PITCH BY A FLOOD OF IMMIGRANTS FROM ACROSS THE CONTINENT.

COME ONE, COME ALL! PEOPLE, PEOPLE AND MORE PEOPLE, POURING FROM EVERY ARRIVING SHIP. . EVERY RACE, EVERY TRIBE, WELCOME, WELCOME TO ALL!
FROM RAGS TO RICHES, THE HUMBLEST PEASANT WHO WOULD BE KING! CURIOSITY. . LIBERATION! THE BILE OF HATE AND ENVY...
MERCENARY VOLUNTEERS.
EXILES...
LIKE ME!
FROM MERCHANTS OF DEATH TO DEALERS IN DRUGS...
AND FROM EVERY LAND, LADIES OF THE NIGHT EAGER TO SELL THEIR FAVORS!

AND SO...
WHAT WOULD YOU EXPECT, HMM?
YAHOO!
WHAMM
STOMP 'IM! KILL 'IM!!
...
KRASH
TEKI
SO, YOU WANNA HIT NI'CHEN'S PLACE AGAIN...?
BLUP
BLUP

HEH... HIS GIRLS ARE SOMETHING ELSE.
PASSIONATE AND HOT BLOODED... OH, YEAH!
HERE--MY VERY OWN SPECIAL *PARAMATT* TEA... CHOCK FULL OF *AKOBA*!
HOW IS IT?
BACK HOME WE DRINK THIS BREW BEFORE A NIGHT OF FUN IN THE SACK.
GIVES YA THE JUICE FOR A TRIPLE PLAY, YOU BET!
YOU'RE CRAZY, YOU KNOW.
NO, NO!! IT'S *AKOBA*! THE AKOBA DOES IT!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!
I'M TALKIN' ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOIN' HERE! PULLING IN EVERY DAMN MERC ON THE PLANET!
LOOK--THIS TIME WE'RE UP AGAINST *REGULARS*, DAMMIT! IMPERIAL REGULARS, NOT THEIR LACKEYS!
YOU'RE THE HEAD HONCHO, RIGHT?! IF YOU DON'T GOT A PLAN, MAN, YOU'RE GONNA BLOW THIS PRICELESS--
BAZZ, BAZZ, BAZZ.
IT DOESN'T DO A MAN GOOD TO BROOD.

DAMN... HOW THE HELL ARE WE GONNA BRING DOWN ROMUNILIA LIKE THIS, EH?!
RIGHT, DARD? HUH?!
THE GUY'S A FREAKIN' SHOPKEEPER, MAN. HE DON'T KNOW SHIT ABOUT WAR
HIM LEADING THE TROOPS?! NO WAY!
DON'T GET SO HOT UNDER THE COLLAR, BAZZ. I'M SURE THE CHAIRMAN'S GOT SOME KINDA PLAN...
A PLAN?!
BULLSHIT! HE DON'T GOT AN IDEA IN HIS HEAD!

LOOK, DARD... WHY DON'T YOU OR KARULA TAKE OVER THIS DUMP?
THESE DAYS IT'S BATTLE EXPERIENCE THAT COUNTS!

HAH! DON'T TALK LIKE AN IDIOT. I COULDN'T EVEN GET A HUNDRED GUYS TO FOLLOW ME.
THINK IT THROUGH, BAZZ. AKOGILAND WOULDN'T BE WHAT IT IS TODAY WITHOUT THE CHAIRMAN.
YOU CAN'T RUN A PLACE LIKE THIS WITH YOUR FISTS. HELL, YOU GOT TENS OF THOUSANDS OF FOLK UP HERE.

AND I'M TELLING YOU--THAT CHAIRMAN IS ONE SHARP MOTHER I'LL BETCHA HE'S GOT A WHOLE SCENARIO FOR LAYING THE EMPIRE FLAT, ALL TICKING AWAY IN THAT HEAD OF HIS. HE'S JUST NOT LETTING IT GET HIM DOWN.
I WONDER... WELL, IF YOU SAY SO, THEN I GUESS IT'S TRUE, BUT STILL...
WAIT AND SEE, MY FRIEND. WAIT AND SEE.
BY THE WAY, HOW'S YOU-KNOW-WHO...?
AH... YOU MEAN KARULA?
HELL... WE HAD ANOTHER GO-AROUND...
"NOT OVER THAT SWORD AGAIN ...?"

⇒Sigh⇐
WHATCHER MOPING ABOUT, SWEET THANG?!
EEK ...?!
HEH HEH HEH...
GEEZ, DARD! YOU SCARED ME HALF TO DEATH!
YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN WHEN YOU THINK TOO MUCH.
EEK! STOP IT! LEGGO, DARN YOU!
UM... DARD? I'VE BEEN THINKING...
ABOUT THE SWORD... RIGHT?
OKAY, THEN. KEEP IT.

HUH?! REALLY?!
JUST PROMISE ME ONE THING!
WHAT?
DON'T YOU EVER, EVER DRAW IT EXCEPT WHEN YOU'RE FIGHTING KURGH!
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S MAGIC POWER CRAP OR WHAT, GIRL... THERE'S NO REASON TO SHORTEN YOUR LIFE.
NORMAL TIMES, YOU USE A NORMAL BLADE, OKAY?
OKAY, OKAY, OH WISE ONE.
BESIDES, I GOT MISTER MACHO HERE TO KEEP ME SAFE!
YEAH. AS LONG AS YOU'RE WHERE I CAN SEE YOU, GIRL
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT, YOU--
OOF!
S-SORRY!

SHEESH-- NOT A WORD... AND I APOLO-GIZED!
WHAT A CREEP!
HEY ..?
OH, LOOK! IT'S HIS GIRLFRIEND!
HEY! STOP THAT! DON'T PAW THROUGH PEOPLE'S STUFF!
HE'S GONE. BUMMER. I MEAN, LIKE, THIS MUST BE IMPORTANT TO HIM, RIGHT?
HOLD ON TO IT. WE'LL PROBABLY CROSS PATHS AGAIN.
GRNNGRN

GRNNNN GRNNN
REST ASSURED...
...IT'S IN CAPABLE HANDS.
AFTER ALL, PRIME MINISTER BARBARROS...
...THAT'S WHAT WE OF THE ORDER OF AH'GASS DO BEST.
PLEASE CONVEY OUR BEST WISHES TO THE EMPEROR.
FZZLK
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU.
HMPH!
I DON'T LIKE IT!
IS THAT SO, CAPTAIN YAFKOB?

IT'S AN OUTRAGE! TO THINK THAT THE EMPIRE'S FINEST WARSHIP, THE BALZAC HERSELF, SHOULD SPEND HER FIRST MISSION SEARCHING FOR SOME ... SOME CONFOUNDED GIRL!
HACCH! IT PISSES ME OFF!
HEH, HEH, HEH.
TROUBLE YOURSELF NO FURTHER, CAPTAIN. ALL YOU NEED DO IS TRANSPORT US TO OUR DESTINATION.
ALTHOUGH OF COURSE, THIS "CONFOUNDED GIRL" YOU SPEAK OF, SHOULD SHE BEND HER MIND TO IT, COULD VAPORIZE YOUR LITTLE SHIP IN SECONDS.
YOU ARROGANT BASTARD! I DON'T CARE IF YOU ARE IMPERIAL COURT TECHNOS! HOW DARE YOU INSULT ME?!
HEH, HEH... WE MEAN NO INSULT.
WE MERELY ACT... ON THE DIRECT ORDERS OF THE EMPEROR.
AND THIS YOUNG WOMAN IS OUR EMPEROR'S CHOSEN CONSORT.
IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE IF YOU PROVED... UNSATISFACTORY... IN YOUR COOPERATION
I TRUST YOU UNDERSTAND ...?
....!
...!

=wheeze=
=gasp=
ARGH... DURN... AIN'T NO GOOD...
CAN'T MOVE THESE LEGS NO MORE...
YEESH! GET UP OFFA YOUR ASS! YOU FLAKE OUT AND WE AIN'T NEVER GETTIN' OUT OF THIS DESERT!
YA USELESS NERK! WHOSE FAULT IS IT WE'RE IN THIS MESS, EH?!
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TA MEAN, HUH?! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAYS "DO IT, DO IT!"
GIMME A BREAK! IT'S 'CAUSE YOU NEVER THINK NOTHIN' THROUGH!
DUMB-ASS!
AN INSULT!! I DARE YA TO SAY THAT AGAIN!
I'LL SAY IT A HUNNERD TIMES! DUMBASS DUMBASS DUMBASS DUMB--!
FWHUMP
DAMN, I MISS AKOGI-LAND...
GIVE IT UP, MAN... WE SOLD OUT OUR OWN PEOPLE. WE CAN'T NEVER GO BACK.
THEY'D LYNCH US!

AAAH!!
UH?
WHOA ...?!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
OH! OH YES!
WELL, IF YOU ASK ME . IT SOUNDS LIKE A LADY WHEN SHE'S... ER, Y'KNOW..
MMM!
OH, MAN! NOW WE'VE STARTED HALLUCINATIN'! WE'RE GONERS FOR SURE!
NAY, NAY, GOOD FRIEND! IF WE'RE DOOMED TO DEATH, ISN'T THIS THE WAY TO GO?
SAY I'M THINKIN' MAYBE WE KIN SEE US SOME HALLUCINATIONS, TOO...?!
VERILY LET US TRY IT, LET US TRY!
....

OH, RUA... THAT'S... MM!
SO... GOOD!
AAAH!
OOOH!
AAHN!
MMM. RUA. YOU'RE SO, SO GOOD!
YEP WE IS DEAD AND GONE TA HEAVEN FOR SURE, OLD BUDDY!
IS THEY ANGELS?! IS THEY GODDESSES?! HURRY AND GIMME A PEEK, BOBO!

AND NOW... YOUR TURN, RUA...!
AAHN!
OH... OH!!
OH, ROSALIA!!
WE GOTTA GET US A BETTER LOOK.
OW! DAMN... KINDA HARD TO CRAWL ALONG ON MY BELLY, NOW
YAIEE!
W-WHO...?!
KRNCH

YOU BAD MEN!!
YA EEE-
WHO ARE YOU SCUM?! AGENTS OF THE EMPIRE ..?!
YEEEK! WE AIN'T NUTHIN' SUSPICIOUS OR NOTHIN', MA'AM. JUST PASSING TRAVELERS, WE IS!
MORE LIKE PASSING PEEPING TOMS!
NOW, THEN, MA'AM, I SWEAR...
=grrk!=
ALL RIGHT, ARGUS. YOU CAN PUT THEM DOWN.

DID YOU FIND ANYTHING TO EAT?
YES, MY LADY. ARGUS FIND THREE YUMMY SAND-WORMS.
SEE?
THAT'S NO GOOD! THEY'RE PACKED FULL OF SAND--WE CAN'T EAT THAT!
YOU CAN'T? BUT THIS SAND SO SWEET... IT MELT ON TONGUE...
MAYBE ON YOUR TONGUE, ARGUS, BUT NOT OURS!
YOU STOP!
YES, SIR! WE WASN'T GOIN' NOWHERE, SIR!!
YOU BAD MEN--YOU FIND NICE PRINCESS LADY SOME GOOD FOOD! YOU GO FIND NOW!!
B-B-BUT... WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A DESERT...
FIND FOOD OR BE FOOD!!
YESSIR! NO PROBLEM, SIR!!

SIZZZZZZ
SIZZLE
POP
I'M SO SORRY ABOUT OUR LITTLE... MISUNDER-STANDING.
YOU MUST BE SO HUNGRY. PLEASE, JOIN IN!
YAHOO! REALLY, MA'AM?! THANK'EE, THANK'EE!
YOU IS *TRULY* A GODDESS COME TO EARTH!
YEAH! YOU SURE ARE DIFFERENT FROM THAT *OTHER* HORN-SPROUTIN' VIXEN WE MET, THAT YOU ARE!
"HORN"...?
YOU BETCHA! THAT ONE'S A *STONE CRAZY* BIMBO!
SWEARS LIKE A SERGEANT, SWATS YA LIKE A WRESTLER, MORE GIRL THAN ANYBODY KIN HANDLE, I TELL YA, MA'AM!

SHE GOT A PRICE ON HER HEAD, TOO, DON'T SHE?! RIGHT NOW I HEAR SHE'S THROWIN' HER WEIGHT AROUND AKOGILAND
...CLAIMIN' SHE'S A PRINCESS OR SOME KINDA THING LIKE THAT!
TELL ME! WHAT EXACTLY DID SHE LOOK LIKE, THIS GIRL? AND HER NAME-- DID YOU HEAR HER NAME?!
HER N-NAME ...?
NO... BUT LIKE, HER HAIR'S DISHWATER BLONDE... BLUE EYES, BUFFED... EIGHTEEN, MAYBE NINETEEN YEARS OLD...? SAME KINDA HORNS AS YOU...
...BUT SHE AIN'T LIKE YOU AT ALL, MA'AM. THAT'S ONE CRUDE BABE-- AIN'T GOT YER BREEDIN', NO SIR!
WAS HER NAME KARULA...?
KARULA OLZEN?!
YEAH! THAT'S IT FER SURE!
HUH...? YOU KNOW HER, MA'AM?
OF COURSE! SHE'S MY BABY SISTER!
YAEEE!
MERCY! MERCY!! PLEASE DON'T KILL US, MA'AM!

TO BE CONTINUED!!

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=hahh=
=hahh=
'MORNING, MA'AM!!
'MORNING, MISSY! HARD AT IT SO EARLY ...?
=hff=
=hff=
=Whoooo=
YOW!

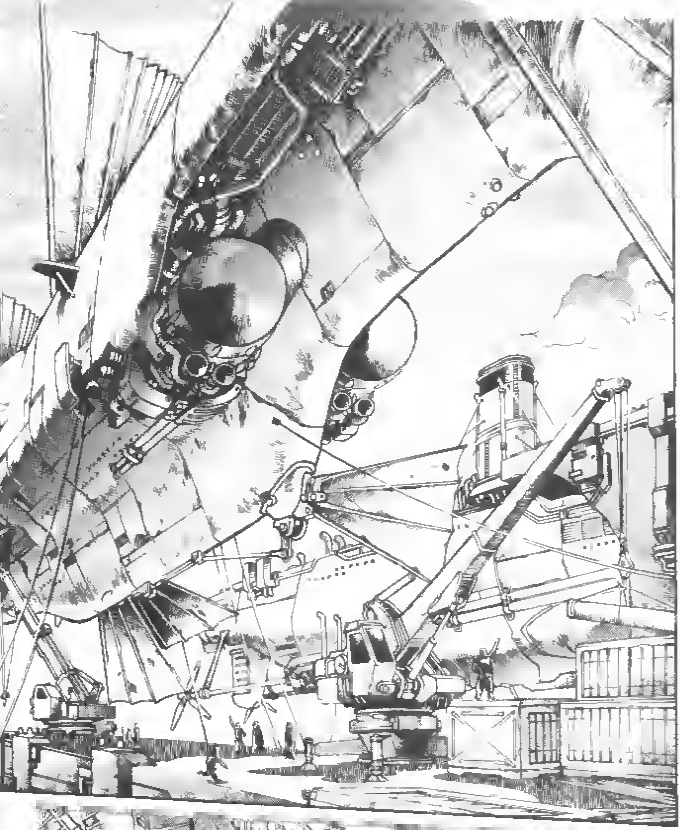
IT'S BOTH GOOD AND BAD, NOT FIGHTING ALL THE TIME
GOT TO KEEP THIS BODY IN SHAPE!
THERE GOES THE MORNING FREIGHT!
1! 2!
OKAY, CHEN-- THAT'S IT FOR TODAY!

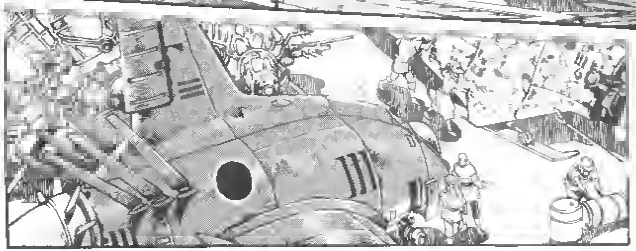
AHHH...
BY DAMN... NOTHIN' WAKES YA UP LIKE A HOT BATH IN THE MORNING.
A LITTLE BIT O' PARADISE!
HEY! YOU BETTER LET ME HAVE IT BEFORE THE WATER GETS COLD, DARD!
YO... THE MUSCLE BABE'S BACK!
"MUSCLE BABE"...?! THAT SOME KIND OF INSULT?
KBOOSH
GLORB!

SO.. YOU GOT ANY MORE SMARTASS COMMENTS AFTER GETTING AN EYEFUL OF THIS?!
HEE HEE! KARULA'S ORGANIC BODY BRUSH!
HEY! CUT IT OUT!
MASAHIKO! MORE HOT WATER! AND MAKE IT SNAPPY!
DON'T WASTE YER TIME THE KID TOOK HIMSELF OFF TO THE PORT FIRST THING THIS MORNING
OH, YEAH-- A LOT OF SHIPS CAME IN LAST NIGHT, DIDN'T THEY?
GUESS HE'S A FLYBOY AFTER ALL, HUH?
SO.. WANT TO, Y'KNOW. FEEL REAL GOOD?
N-NAW... NOT FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.

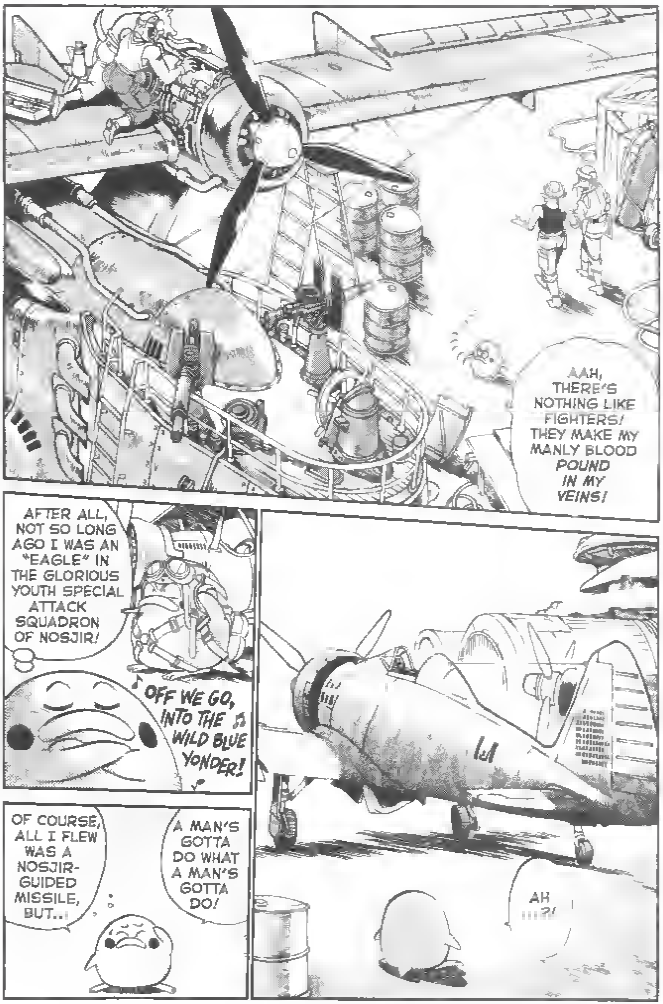
OOH, I'VE HEARD *THAT* BEFORE...
YOU LIKE IT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY, SO DON'T GIVE ME THAT NONSENSE, MY DEAR
GIMME A BREAK..
OH, YEAH? CHECK IT OUT--THIS GUY *NEVER LIES!*
SCHWING
HANDS OFF!
AW, C'MON, BABE... YOU KNOW I LIKE IT FOR CAPPING A NICE WORKOUT...
UH-OH!!
I'LL DO SOMETHING *EXTRA SPECIAL* NICE FOR YOU...

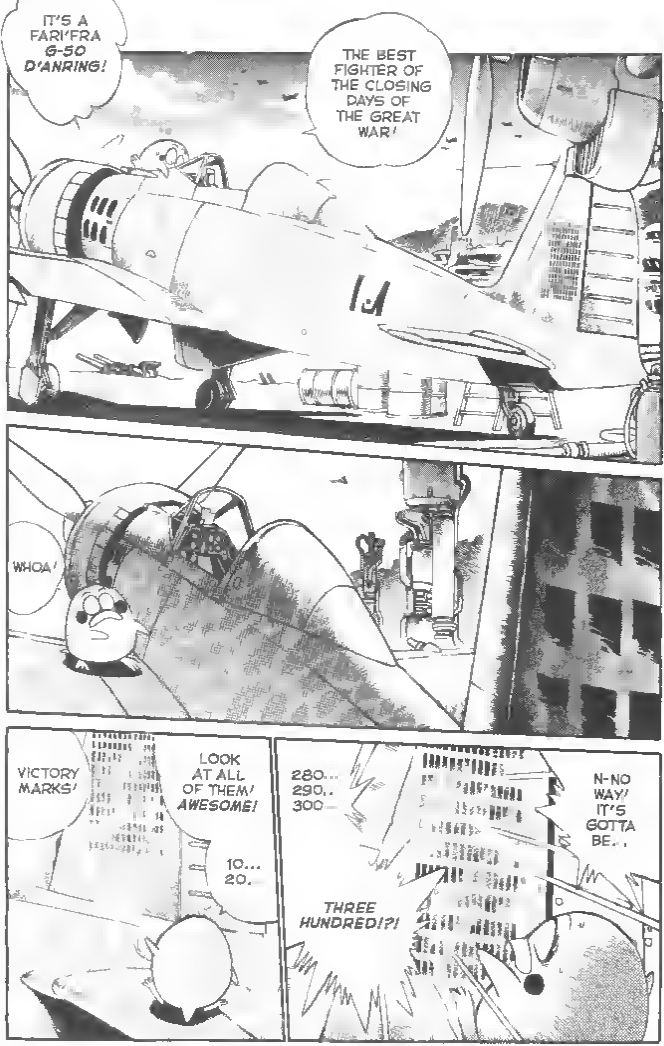
OOH!
OH, BABY... MMM... MM, YEAH!!
haHH
haHH
haHH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SAY, YOU GUYS GONNA FINISH YOUR "BATH" ANY TIME SOON? I'M KINDA SWEATY, HERE...
OOPS... SORRY.





YEEAHOO!!
AWESOME! INCREDIBLE! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
CHECK IT OUT! ALL OF GRIFFEL'S MOST FAMOUS WARPLANES, IN ONE PLACE!


AAH, THERE'S NOTHING LIKE FIGHTERS! THEY MAKE MY MANLY BLOOD POUND IN MY VEINS!
AFTER ALL, NOT SO LONG AGO I WAS AN "EAGLE" IN THE GLORIOUS YOUTH SPECIAL ATTACK SQUADRON OF NOSJIR!
♪ OFF WE GO, INTO THE WILD BLUE YONDER! ♫
OF COURSE, ALL I FLEW WAS A NOSJIR-GUIDED MISSILE, BUT...
A MAN'S GOTTA DO WHAT A MAN'S GOTTA DO!
AH ...?!


IT'S A FARI'FRA G-50 D'ANRING!
THE BEST FIGHTER OF THE CLOSING DAYS OF THE GREAT WAR!
WHOA!
VICTORY MARKS!
LOOK AT ALL OF THEM! AWESOME!
10... 20...
280... 290... 300—
THREE HUNDRED!?!
N-NO WAY! IT'S GOTTA BE...

...THE LEGENDARY SUPER ACE, RAMUDA AL' HABAR!
OH MY GOD! I NEVER DREAMED SOMEDAY I'D SEE THE FIGHTER OF THE GREAT SUPER ACE HIMSELF!!
MAYBE IF I TOUCH IT ALL OVER, HIS SKILL WILL RUB OFF ON ME!
AND THE SUPER ACE HIMSELF SAT HERE-- RIGHT HERE!
300 KILLS! IT'S THE MOST FAMOUS AVIATION RECORD IN HISTORY!
THEY LOOK A LITTLE FADED, THOUGH... I'LL JUST TOUCH THEM UP A BIT!
HEY, YOU!
WHD
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING TO MY PLANE?!

ACK! I... uh... N-NOTHING, SIR! YOUR VICTORY MARKS WERE A LITTLE FADED SO I THOUGHT... UM .
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! BEAT IT!!
Y-YES, SIR!
I'M S-SORRY, SIR!!
RIGHT AWAY, S--
KBLOOS!
KRANG!
E-EXCUSE ME, BUT... AREN'T YOU MAJOR RAMUDA, THE LEGENDARY FIGHTER ACE?
THAT'S ANCIENT HISTORY
YOU'RE FROM NOSJIR, AREN'T YOU? JUST OVER THE BORDER FROM FARI'FRA...
YES SIR, MAJOR SIR! AND I, TOO, WAS A MILITARY AVIATOR!

THOSE NOSJIR KAMIKAZE MISSILES?
SORRY, KID, BUT THAT'S A *WEAPON*, NOT AN AIRPLANE
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, SIR, *NOT SO!!* TRUE, AFTER I WASHED OUT OF BASIC FLIGHT TRAINING IT WAS THE ONLY THING I QUALIFIED FOR.
...BUT I'VE NEVER FOR ONE SINGLE DAY FORGOTTEN MY DREAM OF BEING A *TRUE* PILOT!
IF I'D JUST HAD A LITTLE MORE TIME FOR TRAINING...
...I'M SURE I COULD HAVE LIVED MY DREAMS OF FLIGHT! AND ALL MY FALLEN COMRADES WERE THE SAME!
AW, C'MON, KIDDO... I'M SORRY I SHOULD NEVER HAVE SAID THAT. NOSJIR FOUGHT ITS BEST, AS MUCH AS FARI'FRA DID.
⇒ Sniff ⇐
⇒ Sniff ⇐
I SALUTE YOU, FELLOW WARRIOR OF THE AIR—!

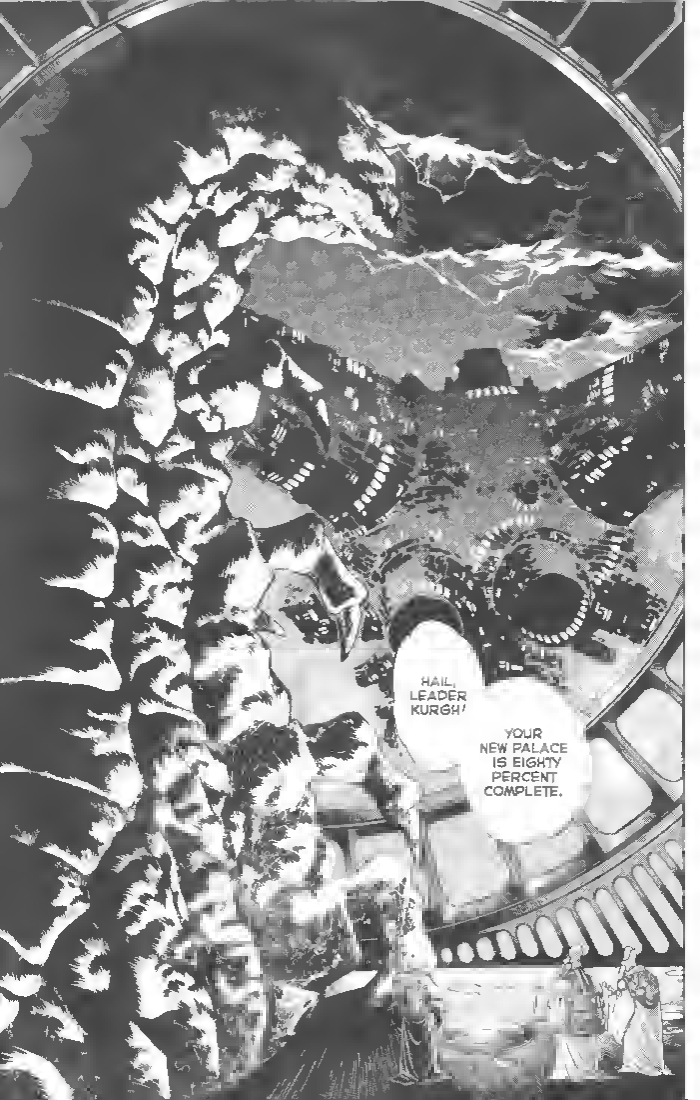
IT'S TRUE, I TELL YOU, TRUE!! THE LEGENDARY SUPER ACE HIMSELF IS FIGHTING AT OUR SIDE!
YESSIREE, BOB! RAMUDA AL' HABAR, FARI'FRA AIR FORCE MAJOR! A TRUE KNIGHT OF THE WILD BLUE YONDER! YOU BETCHA!
NO KIDDING ? EVEN I'VE HEARD HIS NAME...
YEAH, JUST GOES TO SHOW WHAT A BUNCH OF MEAN MOTHERS WE'VE GOT IN AKOGI-LAND
HMMM... I WONDER WHAT KIND OF MAN A SUPER ACE IS...?
SHEE-IT, KARULA! PILOTS ARE A BUNCH OF FAT-ASSED SNOTS WHO FIGHT SITTING DOWN! WE REAL SOLDIERS ARE A DIFFERENT BREED!
OH, COME ON, DARD! DON'T BE LIKE THAT!
GEE... HE'S LIVING RIGHT HERE IN THE SAME CITY WE DO! I'D LOVE TO MEET HIM JUST ONCE!
HMPH!

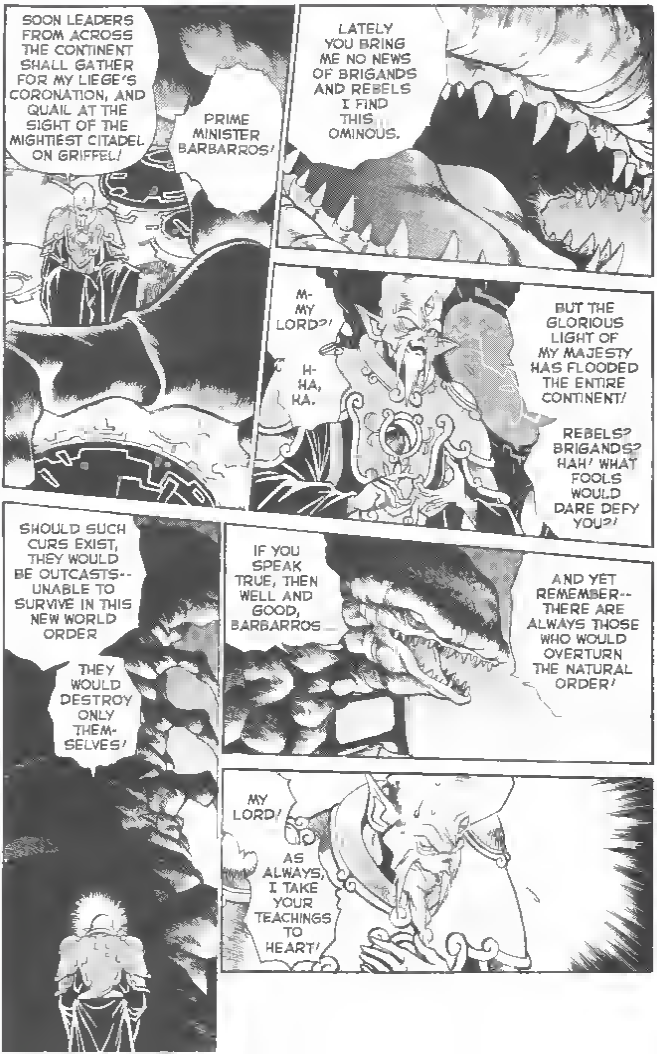
AHN!
OH!
NG!
GRRR
AHHH
OOH!
....

HUHN . . ?
I'M GOING BACK TO THE BAR.
WHY? WHAT'S UP?
BECAUSE, DEAR RAMUDA, YOU'VE BEEN THINKING OF SOME OTHER WOMAN THE WHOLE TIME I'VE BEEN MAKING LOVE TO YOU
I HAVE?
YES. I CAN TELL... I AM A *PROFESSIONAL*, AFTER ALL.
I IMAGINE YOU HIRED ME TO TRY AND FORGET HER...
BUT YOU FAILED... AND I FAILED. SORRY, DEAR.
SLEEP TIGHT, MAJOR.
...

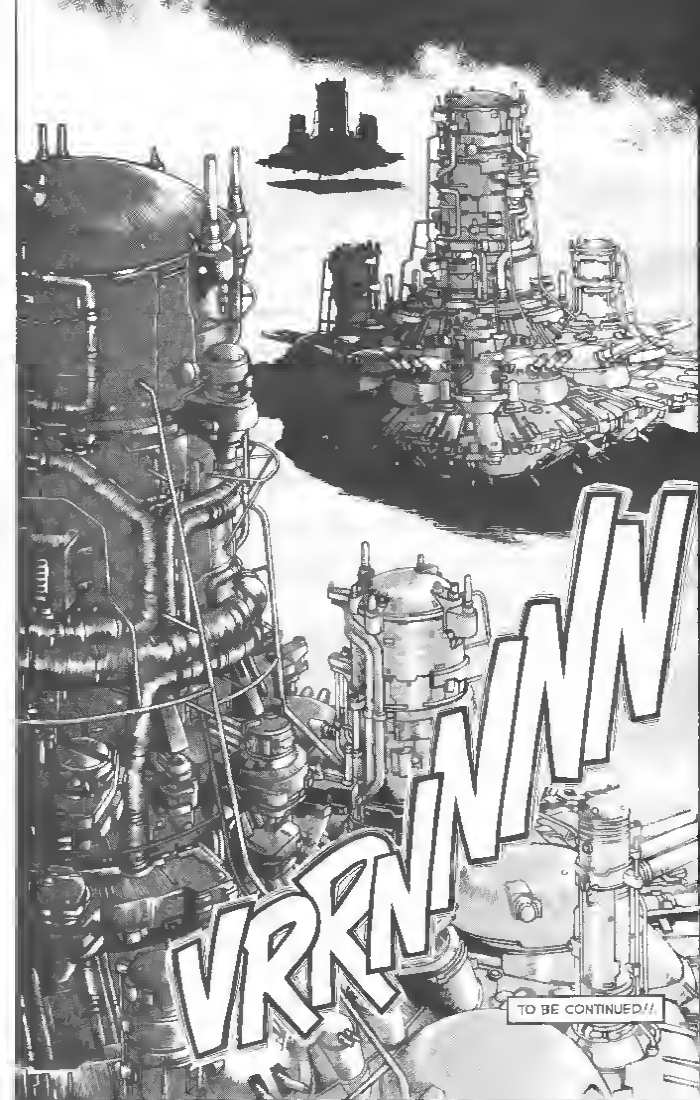
GRMBBBRMBBBGRMBBB

KRANG
KRANG
GRNCH


HAIL, LEADER KURGH!
YOUR NEW PALACE IS EIGHTY PERCENT COMPLETE.


SOON LEADERS FROM ACROSS THE CONTINENT SHALL GATHER FOR MY LIEGE'S CORONATION, AND QUAIL AT THE SIGHT OF THE MIGHTIEST CITADEL ON GRIFFEL!
PRIME MINISTER BARBARROS!
LATELY YOU BRING ME NO NEWS OF BRIGANDS AND REBELS I FIND THIS... OMINOUS.
M-MY LORD?!
H-HA, HA.
BUT THE GLORIOUS LIGHT OF MY MAJESTY HAS FLOODED THE ENTIRE CONTINENT!
REBELS? BRIGANDS? HAH! WHAT FOOLS WOULD DARE DEFY YOU?!
SHOULD SUCH CURS EXIST, THEY WOULD BE OUTCASTS-- UNABLE TO SURVIVE IN THIS NEW WORLD ORDER
THEY WOULD DESTROY ONLY THEM-SELVES!
IF YOU SPEAK TRUE, THEN WELL AND GOOD, BARBARROS...
AND YET REMEMBER-- THERE ARE ALWAYS THOSE WHO WOULD OVERTURN THE NATURAL ORDER!
MY LORD!
AS ALWAYS, I TAKE YOUR TEACHINGS TO HEART!

GRRNNN
RMMMBBB
RMMMBBB
RMMMBBB


VRRNNN
TO BE CONTINUED!!

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Manga

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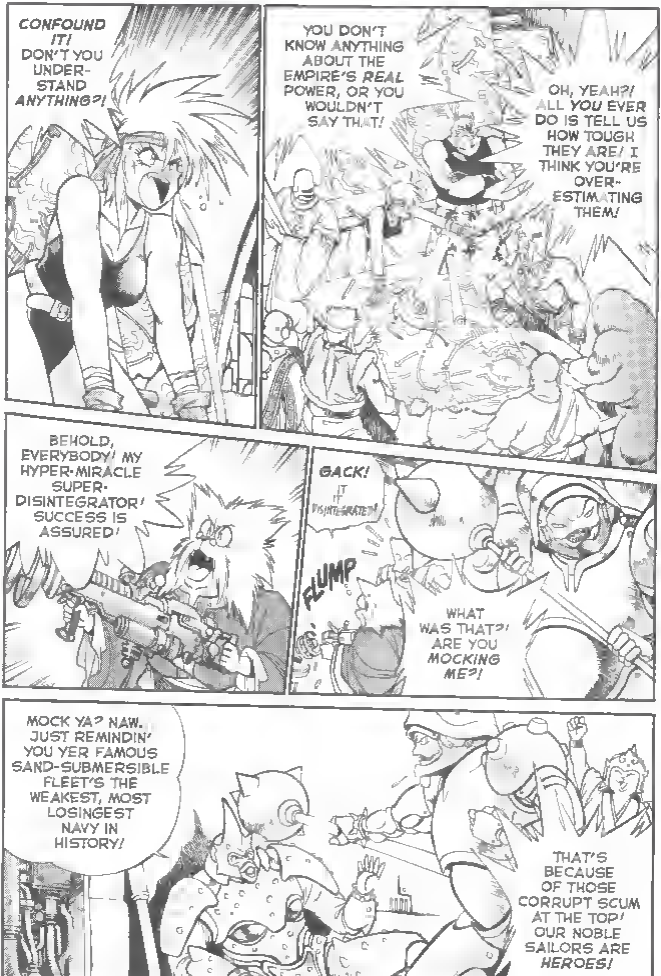
YAHOO!
HEY!
YAAH!


CONFOUND IT! DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND ANYTHING?!
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE EMPIRE'S REAL POWER, OR YOU WOULDN'T SAY THAT!
OH, YEAH?! ALL YOU EVER DO IS TELL US HOW TOUGH THEY ARE! I THINK YOU'RE OVER-ESTIMATING THEM!
BEHOLD, EVERYBODY! MY HYPER-MIRACLE SUPER-DISINTEGRATOR! SUCCESS IS ASSURED!
GACK!
IT [illegible]!
FLUMP
WHAT WAS THAT?! ARE YOU MOCKING ME?!
MOCK YA? NAW. JUST REMINDIN' YOU YER FAMOUS SAND-SUBMERSIBLE FLEET'S THE WEAKEST, MOST LOSINGEST NAVY IN HISTORY!
THAT'S BECAUSE OF THOSE CORRUPT SCUM AT THE TOP! OUR NOBLE SAILORS ARE HEROES!

DAMN YOUR KOOLAK HIDE! ALWAYS SHOOTIN' OFF YOUR MOUTH!
WHY DOESN'T OUR SECTOR HAVE GUN EMPLACE-MENTS?!
OH, MAN! I WANNA KICK BUTT NOW!
MY POINT IS, YOU BLEEDIN' SPENYA JERKWADS AIN'T WORTH--
HEH... I'D HEARD PRINCESS KARULA OF LEDOMIAM WAS BRAVE, BUT I THINK YOU'RE A LILY-LIVERED CDWARD!
WHA--?
WHY YOU ...!!
NO ONE CALLS ME A CDWARD!
YOU DIE!!
HAH! MORE BIG WORDS! TRY IT, GIRLIE!

KSHANGG
KANG
SPRAKK
?#$%!
$%#!
BLAM
!!!
WHUD
AWHAM
SMAK

LUNCH-
TIME,
GENTLEMEN.
PHWW
HRMPH

THIS IS JUST HOPELESS! EVERYONE'S TOTALLY DEADLOCKED.
HOW CAN WE BEAT KURGH LIKE THIS?!
OH, GODDESS I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO..
IT'S JUST THE FIRST STEP HAVE PATIENCE
HUH . . .?
YOU'RE THE YOUNGER SISTER OF QUEEN ROSALIA, CORRECT?
IN THE MIDST OF A LOSING BATTLE, YOUR SISTER SAVED YOUR HONORED FATHER AND LED HER COUNTRY SPLENDIDLY IN TIME OF WAR.
AND YOU ARE . . .?

I KNOW YOU CAN DO THE SAME!
WHOA! WAIT A MINUTE!
YOU DROPPED THIS LAST WEEK!
HEE HEE. SHE'S AWFULLY CUTE. YOUR SWEET-HEART, I MEAN.
YOU OPENED IT?!
I'M SORRY... I'M TOO NOSY. BUT I DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM!
I TOLD YOU! HANG THAT HEAD, GIRL!
NO... NO, IT'S FINE. I'M JUST GRATEFUL YOU SAVED IT FOR ME.
I PRAY FOR YOUR SUCCESS IN BATTLE, PRINCESS KARULA.

YOU KNOW WHO THAT WAS...? RAMUDA AL' HABAR.
REALLY?! THAT SUPER ACE MASAHIKO'S ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT?!
OOH!
GEE, GUYS LIKE HIM REALLY ARE SOMETHING SPECIAL!
HMPH!
I'M JOKING! JOKING! YOU'RE THE ONLY MAN FOR ME, DARD!
SO, NOW THAT WE'RE FEELING BETTER, LET'S EAT! CHOW TIME!
WHERE SHOULD WE GO? CHINA DRAGON? THE CRIMSON ROSE?

ALL RIGHT! DIG IN!
YER A PIG, GIRL...
HEY, WE GOT MEETINGS ALL DAY, RIGHT? GOTTA REFUEL!
SAY, HERE'S SOME NEWS ABOUT KURGH
THE SLIMY WORM SAYS HERE HE PUT UP A STATUE TO GUSTAV IN HIS NEW PALACE.
PRETTY BALLSY, CONSIDERING HE MURDERED THE OLD GUY.
LOOK HERE, DARD... DON'T TALK ABOUT THOSE CREEPS WHEN I'M TRYING TO ENJOY MY LUNCH.
ISN'T THERE ANY GOOD NEWS...?
YOU GONNA FINISH THAT? IF NOT, I'LL EAT IT!
HANDS OFF! I WAS SAVING IT FOR LAST!
THAT'S SO GROSS.

WHAT'S WRONG, RUA?
IT'S SOME WOMAN OVER THERE. SHE'S GOT MANNERS LIKE A PIG, AND SHE'S EATING ENOUGH FOR THREE MEN!
IT MAKES ME ASHAMED... ASHAMED TO BE A WOMAN. IT'S LIKE, GIRLS LIKE HER DRAG US ALL DOWN, RIGHT?
HEH HEH
TIMES ARE TOUGH, RUA... EVERY MEAL WE HAVE MAY BE OUR LAST.
WE'VE ALL GOT TO SURVIVE AS BEST WE CAN. DON'T BE SO JUDGMENTAL
I MEAN, LOOK AT ME! I'M EATING WAY MORE THAN I USED TO.
AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU GUYS?! QUIT STARING AT US LIKE THAT!!
BUT MA'AM, WE IS AWFUL HUNGRY
REMINDS ME OF MY SISTER KARULA... SHE WAS ALWAYS A REAL EATER! WHY, SHE'D JUST INHALE A GOOD BAKED MURI TROUT--WHOLE!
SIGHH... I WISH I COULD SEE HER EAT AGAIN, RUA.

WHAM
KA--
KARULA ...?!
MAGE?

HUH?
WHA--
WHO'S THAT? A FRIEND?
RO-ROSALIA ...?
YOWCH!
KRAK
KOOOSH

UH OH...
HOT HOT HOT!!!
WHRAK
YA FLAMIN' IDJIT! LOOK WHAT YA DID!
SKRASH
HEY, YOU BITCH!
WHAT THE HELL YA THINK YER DOIN'...?!
SPA
SCREW YOU!
BWA HAW HAW!!
LOOKS GOOD ON YA, BABE!
OH, DOES IT, NOW...?

WHRAMM
YOU GOT SOME NERVE, BOYS!
OH, NO! NOT AGAIN
SKRASH
WHAM
FIRES AND FIGHTS ARE THE FLOWERS OF AKOGILAND, THEY SAY..
WHOSH
WHRRM
BLUBBLE BLUP

SKRAKOOM
KFLUNCH
OH, FOR GOODNESS SAKE...!
JUST *LOOK* WHAT YOU DID TO OUR "HAPPY REUNION" ...!
DON'T YOU *EVER* CHANGE, KARULA?
I'M SORRY, SIS...

SOMEDAY YOU'LL *REALLY* GET HURT, AND THEN YOU'LL *REALLY* BE SORRY.
YES YES MMMY -
SNIFF
BUT .. BUT I'M JUST SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY...
AND I'M GLAD YOU'RE JUST THE SAME...
OH, IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU, ROSALIA!
WHAT'S THIS ? *TEARS?* YOU?
ALL GROWN UP, AND STILL MY LITTLE SISTER.

ROSALIA...
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU FORMALLY, THIS TIME.
MEET MY MAN DARD-- HE'S A MERCENARY.
MY PLEASURE, MA'AM
FACT IS...
PSSST
PSSST
YOU MEAN ...?!
HEH, HEH, HEH .. YEP!
I MEAN, NOT UNTIL THE WAR'S OVER, BUT THEN .
MR. DARD... I THANK YOU FOR ACCEPTING MY TERRIBLE LITTLE SISTER INTO YOUR FAMILY.
"TERRIBLE" ..?
HEY!

THERE NOW. IT'S PLENTY LATE...
.. AND YOUR SISTER MUST BE EXHAUSTED. LET'S HIT THE SACK
HEY, SIS! YOU CAN SLEEP WITH *ME* TONIGHT, JUST LIKE OLD TIMES!
OKAY, OKAY!
.....!!
UH OH
I... I DON'T CARE IF YOU *ARE* SISTERS! THAT'S *TOO MUCH!*
MISTRESS ROSALIA SPENDS HER NIGHTS WITH *ME!*
HAAH ...?
ROSALIA ...?
A HA HA... ER... IT'S SORTA LIKE. UM, HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...? UH, RUA AND I KINDA...
JUST *TELL HER,* MISTRESS!

YOU AND I ARE [CENSORED], WE ARE!
ACK?
OOG!
EVERY NIGHT WE [CENSORED] AND [CENSORED]
JUST LAST NIGHT WE [CENSORED] UNTIL THE SUN CAME UP!
OH, WHAT SILLY THINGS SHE SAYS, THE LITTLE DEAR! HA, HA!
BUT WE--
"MISTRESS" ROSALIA!?
ULP!
WELL, I SEE THAT ALL KINDS OF "INTERESTING" THINGS MUST HAVE HAPPENED ON YOUR TRAVELS, SISTER DEAREST...
NO, W-WAIT! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! IT'S JUST, UM...
NO, ROSALIA! I WANT TO MAKE THIS PERFECTLY CLEAR RIGHT NOW!!

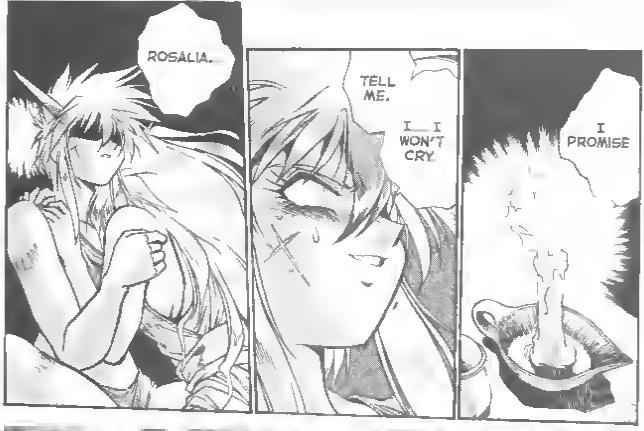
THERE, THERE, SNAKEY... LET THE TWO SISTERS HAVE A NIGHT TO CATCH UP WITH EACH OTHER, EH?
OKAY?
I'LL KEEP YA' WARM TONIGHT, DARLIN'.
GUH- ROSS! I HATE MEN! YUCK!!
OWW! LEMME GO! ROSALIA!
JUST WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL, DARD DEAREST?!
AHH...

YOU LOOK SO HAPPY, KARULA.
HEH, HEH... YEAH
I MEAN, THERE WERE BAD TIMES TOO, BUT...
I'M SO GLAD. I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU SMILE AGAIN
GOTTA SMILE OR YOU GET WRINKLES, RIGHT?
CAN'T FROWN ALL THE TIME
HE SEEMS LIKE HE'S A GOOD MAN, YOUR DARD.
YEAH, WELL... YOU SEEM PRETTY HAPPY YOURSELF, ROSALIA. YOU'VE GOT A LOVER WHO *IDOLIZES* YOU...
STOP IT! I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE! I'M *NOT* THAT KIND OF GIRL, UNDERSTAND?!

OH, YEAH, RIGHT. SO, COME ON... TELL ME ABOUT YOUR FIRST TIME TOGETHER
WHY DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?!
NOTHING SPECIAL. FUTURE REFERENCE, MAYBE ...?
ORRR... YOU COULD DEMONSTRATE, IF YOU PREFER.
YOU KNOW I SWING BOTH WAYS, TOO...
ARE YOU CRAZY?!
NOT IN FRONT OF MY SISTER!
C'MON ONLY HALF-SISTER, REMEMBER?
SO... UM LET ME GUESS... YOU STARTED LIKE THIS...
AND THEN
MMM

Y-YEAH I BET IT FELT REALLY GOOD..
.. SO THEN SHE'D START TO RESPOND, AND--
ENOUGH! STOP! I SAID STOP THAT!!
OW!
AWW, C'MON AT LEAST LET ME FINISH!
I WAS JUST GETTING INTO T
I CAN'T BELIEVE HER! DOESN'T SHE HAVE ANY SHAME?!
BUT YOU KNOW.. IT'S NOT MY PLACE, SIS, BUT ISN'T IT TIME YOU FOUND YOURSELF A PROPER FIANCÉ?
FATHER WAS ALWAYS WORRIED, REMEMBER? THAT YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE THE REALM AN HEIR..
HE WAS ALWAYS SAYING YOU WERE SO SPECIAL THERE WASN'T A MAN ANYWHERE WHO WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU ..
LOOK AT WHO I ENDED UP WITH--A SCRUFFY MERCENARY FROM RADOM! IF WE WERE BACK IN LEDOMIAM, FATHER WOULD NEVER FORGIVE ME.

I WONDER HOW HE IS... I ASK EVERYONE WHO COMES HERE IF THEY'VE HEARD ANYTHING...
...BUT NO ONE KNOWS WHERE HE IS I GUESS THE EMPIRE TOOK HIM PRISONER, HUH?
I MEAN, IT'S GREAT THAT WE'RE FINALLY TOGETHER AGAIN, BUT...
KARULA...
...BUT I'M SURE HE'S ALL RIGHT! I MEAN, FATHER'S MAGIC IS SO AWESOME... I BET HE'S HIDING OUT SOMEWHERE, WITH SOME BABE MASSAGING THOSE ACHING MUSCLES OF HIS!
SIS...?
WH... WHAT IS IT?
TEARS...?!



TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE:

THE HIDDEN WAR
PART FIVE

ドラクウーン

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DRAKUUN

THE HIDDEN WAR

PART FIVE

MAN, OH MAN... DIDN'T GET A WINK OF SLEEP AT ALL LAST NIGHT. SHE MAY LOOK LIKE A SNAKE, BUT SHE DRINKS LIKE A FISH!
HUH?!
YO, KARULA! NOT LIKE YOU TO BE UP SO EARLY.
DID YOU AND BIG SISTER HAVE A NICE SLUMBER PARTY LAST NIGHT...?
uh-oh

NOW, NOW, BABE... WHAT'S WITH ALL THE TEARS?
DON'T TELL ME YOU TWO ARE FIGHTING ALREADY.
DARD ...?
WHAT, GIRL?! TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG!
MY FATHER... DADDY...
SHE SAYS, HE'S DEAD..
WHAT ABOUT HIM ...?

I SEE...
THAT BASTARD KURGH'S WORK...?
DON'T YOU WORRY-- WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM BUT GOOD!
Y-YEAH!
DAMN RIGHT I WILL...
G-GOOD MORNING

WHAT THE DEVIL?! LOOK AT YOU!
DIDN'T YOU SLEEP AT ALL?
SORTA.. MAYBE... WELL, NO.
BEL'IL... COFFEE, PLEASE.
LISTEN HERE, KID.. YOUR PRECIOUS PRINCESS MINERVA IS JUST TIRED, THAT'S ALL. YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY UP PLAYING NURSEMAID
BUT THAT'S ALL I CAN DO, RUFUS
OH YEAH, IT SOUNDS REAL NOBLE BUT MAYBE YOU WERE.. TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOUR SLEEPING BEAUTY, MM?
RUFUS... THERE ARE THINGS YOU CAN SAY AND THINGS YOU CAN'T... SO WATCH IT!
SO .. IS SHE STILL SOUND ASLEEP? YOU SHOULD BE PLEASED.
OH, YEAH? WHY'S THAT?
SHE MAY HAVE CALLED YOU A TRAITOR, KID, BUT OBVIOUSLY SHE TRUSTS YOU.
UNTIL NOW SHE'S BEEN ON THE RUN FROM KURGH'S MINIONS, DIDN'T DARE SNATCH EVEN A MOMENT OF SHUT-EYE.

OH, YEAH... I GET IT/ HMM... MAYBE..
THAP
LUCKY BOY KREITAS!
NO NO I DIDN'T MEAN
=YAWNING=
MMM.. I SLEPT WELL.
G-GOOD MORNING, YOUR HIGHNESS!
ER.. MY APOLOGIES FOR THE CRUDE SLEEPING ARRANGE-MENTS

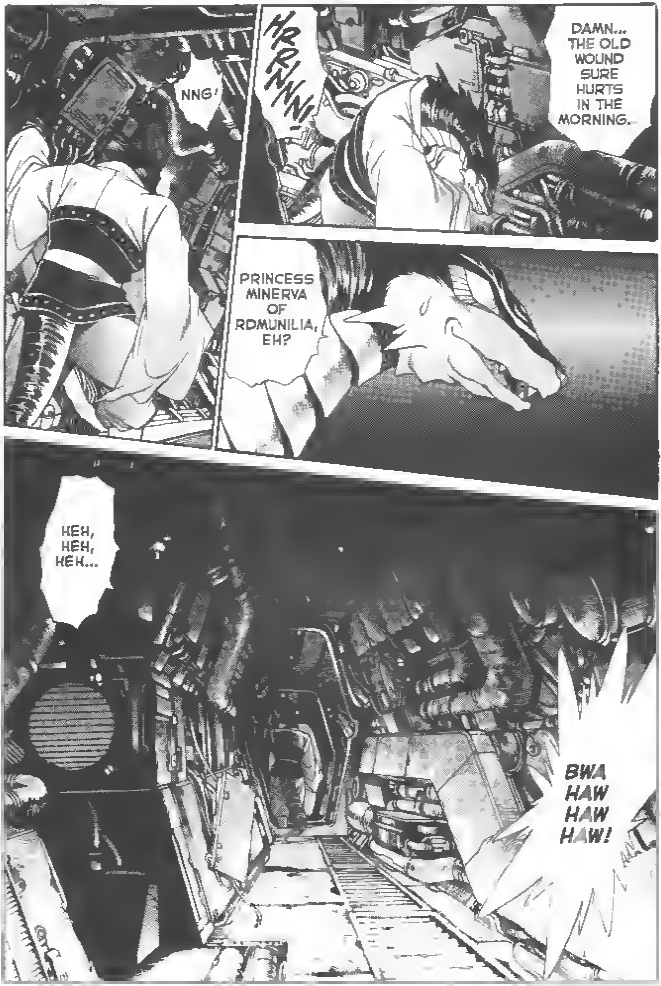
HMPH!
WANT A CUP OF MUD? HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IT BLACK.
DOUBLE DECAF CAPPUCCINO WITH A SHOT, IF YOU PLEASE!!
OH, MAN... SHE HATES ME!
OH, YEAH, RIGHT, LADY. YOU EXPECT THAT IN THE MIDDLE OF A BLOODY DESERT?
H-HOW DARE YOU?! YOU'RE IN THE PRESENCE OF HER AUGUST MAJESTY! WATCH YOUR TONGUE!
ENOUGH!
ENOUGH OF THAT..
A PRINCESS WITHOUT A KINGDOM IS NO PRINCESS AT ALL
I'M JUST LIKE THAT KARULA WOMAN..
NAY, NOT SO, MY LADY! WE SHALL DRIVE OUT THE TRAITOR KURGH AND--
KREITAS!

WHY DON'T YOU GET SOME SLEEP?
YOUR EYES ARE LIKE HOLES IN A BLANKET
NONSENSE! IT'S NOTHING!
A ROYAL GUARD HAS NO NEED OF SLEEP!
I SAID SLEEP, AND THAT'S AN ORDER, DAMN IT! I CAN'T RISK HAVING YOU NODDING OFF WHEN I NEED YOU!
B-BUT WHO WILL SERVE MY LADY WHILE..
RIGHT NOW I DON'T NEED SERVANTS, KREITAS! I NEED WARRIORS!
AND IF YOU DON'T MIND, I NEED THEM WELL RESTED!
MY... MY LADY! I SHALL DO MY DUTY AS YOU REQUEST!
HALLELUJAH! MY LADY CONSIDERS ME A WARRIOR!
WELL, WELL, WELL.

I CAN HARDLY STAND TO WATCH HIM.
HE'S SO PACK FULL OF LOYALTY AND RESTRAINT HE PRACTICALLY SQUEAKS WHEN HE WALKS
ARE YOU CHASTISING ME, RUFUS?
LOOK, I UNDERSTAND YOUR SUSPICION. BETRAYED BY YOUR RETAINERS, DRIVEN FROM YOUR OWN LAND...
...BUT BACK WHEN ALL YOUR FINE, TRUSTWORTHY LIEUTENANTS WERE FALLING OVER THEMSELVES TO BROWN-NOSE KURGH...
...THAT KID THERE WAS THE ONLY ONE TO FLAT-OUT ACCUSE HIM OF TREASON--AND HE NEARLY GOT HIMSELF KILLED FOR IT.
YOU'VE LOST YOUR STATUS, YOUR RANK, EVERYTHING BUT YOUR ROYAL BLOOD ALONE... AND HE'S *STILL* READY TO DIE FOR YOU.
AND JUST WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS...?
H-HOW SHOULD I KNOW?

LOVE, MY LADY FAIR! LOVE!
HOW SWEET!
WH- WHAT?!
Y-YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BE SERIOUS. HOW... WHY..
BUT BACK TO WHAT REALLY MATTERS
RIGHT NOW, TRUST HIM OR NOT..
KRETAS IS PRACTICALLY THE ONLY RETAINER, INDEED, ONE OF THE ONLY FRIENDS YOU'VE GOT ON THIS WHOLE VAST CONTINENT.
FRIENDS ..

AND SO... NEXT TIME, HAVE A KIND WORD OR TWO FOR HIM, WHY DON'T YOU?
AND NOW I LEAVE YOU IN THE COMPETENT HANDS OF BEL'IL.
THANK YOU, SIR!
STOP!
WHY ARE YOU HELPING US?
BECAUSE I'M A FOOL WHO LIKES TO SIDE WITH THE UNDERDOG.
IS THAT GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS..?


NNG!
HRNNN!
DAMN... THE OLD WOUND SURE HURTS IN THE MORNING.
PRINCESS MINERVA OF RDMUNILIA, EH?
HEH, HEH, HEH...
BWA HAW HAW HAW!

YOU HEARD?! THE EMPIRE'S SENDING A PUNITIVE EXPEDITION.
YEAH, A FRIGGIN' FLEET, MAN... BATTLESHIPS AND ALL!
THE GUYS AT THE TOP, THEY'RE TOTALLY FREAKED.
GR NNGRNNGRNN
WHATCHA GONNA DO?
DO? YEAH, LIKE WE GOT A CHOICE?
STAY ALIVE, AT LEAST YA GOT A CHANCE, RIGHT?

GENTLEMEN! THE SITUATION IS PRESSING!
ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM THE SYNDICATE AND OTHER SOURCES, POWERFUL IMPERIAL ARMIES ARE MANEUVERING INTO POSITION.
THEIR MISSION, OF COURSE, IS TO TAKE OUT AKOGILAND!
HAH! SO THEY'RE FINALLY COMING!
WE BEEN WAITIN' FOR THIS! PAYBACK TIME!
=ulp=
HUH?
WHASSUP? YOU OKAY, BABE?
YEAH.. JUST FEEL A BIT.. QUEASY.
WHY'S THAT? YOU EAT SOME BAD GRUB?

HAH! THE WAY YOU EAT, YA PROBABLY SCARFED DOWN A PLATE OR TWO ALONG WITH YER BREAKFAST
ENOUGH OF YOUR WISECRACKS, FURBALL! I'VE JUST BEEN REAL HUNGRY, Y'KNOW?
PRINCESS KARULA!
!!!!!!
P-PRESENT.
MAN, I SURE WISH HE WOULDN'T YELL LIKE THAT.
TOOK TEN YEARS OFF MY LIFE.
I'M TOLD YOU LED THE AIRBORNE CAVALRY IN LEDOMIAM WITH GREAT SUCCESS. I'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR OPINION
NOW LISTEN UP, PEOPLE! THIS BATTLE CAN'T BE WON BY DEFENSE.
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WE HAVE TO TAKE THE WAR TO THE ENEMY!
OKAY, OKAY. NO PROB.
B-BUT.. WHERE?
IS THERE A CHOICE?! TO BELGORAND, CAPITAL OF ROMUNILIA!
WHAAA T?!
THE IMPERIAL CITY?!

THAT'S CRAZY! TOTALLY OFF THE WALL! WE CAN'T GO STRAIGHT FOR THE CAPITAL!
YEAH! BELGORAND'S A PERFECT, IMPREGNABLE FORTRESS! WE COULDN'T EVEN GET CLOSE!
IMPREGNABLE? THERE'S NO SUCH THING!
FORTRESS OR NOT, PEOPLE BUILT IT, RIGHT?!
LOOK, WHAT I WANT ALL OF YOU TO GET INTO YOUR HEADS IS THAT IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO DRIVE BACK AN IMPERIAL ASSAULT!
I KNOW THE EMPIRE'S STRENGTH! I SPEAK THE TRUTH!
IF WE WANT TO LIBERATE THE CONTINENT AND LET OUR PEOPLES LIVE IN PEACE
EMPEROR KURGH AND HIS LACKEYS MUST DIE!
HMMM... SHE'S GOT A POINT
IT'S A FREE-FOR-ALL, MAN! I'M INTO THAT!
OF COURSE I KNOW IT WON'T BE A PICNIC!
FIRST WE NEED THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INTELLIGENCE WE CAN GET! EVERY ONE OF YOU HAS TO DO YOUR PART!

CERTAINLY THE AIR POWER WE HAVE GATHERED HERE CAN BE USED MORE EFFECTIVELY FOR OFFENSE.
BUT THERE'S A FUEL SHORTAGE. WE CAN'T WAIT MUCH LONGER.
I DUNNO... RUMOR HAS IT THAT BASTARD KURGH'S BUILT HIMSELF A NEW CITADEL.
YEAH, YEAH. AND THEY SAY IT'S AS BIG AS AKOGILAND.
HOW THE HELL DO YOU TAKE SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
FULL FRONTAL ASSAULT!
ARGHHH! I KNEW IT!
BUT THAT'S JUST TO FAKE THEM OUT, RIGHT?
Dingg! THE MAN WINS A CIGAR!
WE TURN AKOGILAND INTO AN UNSTOPPABLE BATTLESHIP, AND GO ON THE ATTACK TO GET THEIR ATTENTION..
...WHILE A DETACHED UNIT MOVES IN FOR THE KILL BEHIND THEIR LINES! THAT'S THE BASIC CONCEPT, ANYWAY. WE GET TO WORK ON THE DETAILS STARTING NOW.

OKAY, OPINIONS ABOUT PRINCESS KARULA'S PROPOSAL! DON'T BE SHY!
urp!
?
EX... EXCUSE ME A M-MOMENT..
P-PLEASE.. LET ME THROUGH..
HEY?! YOU OKAY?!
AW, JEEZ, KARULA? ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?
WANT ME TO GET A DOCTOR?
KRRGH
THIS IS SO WEIRD... I'M NOT EATING ANY DIFFERENTLY THAN USUAL... BUT I'M SO NAUSEOUS IN THE MORNINGS..
AH, HAH! MY LITTLE LOVE BIRDS!

SO.. HE'S KNOCKED YOU UP, EH?
WHAT?! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
YOU DIDN'T NOTICE FOR THREE WHOLE MONTHS?!
Y YEAH
BUT YOU STOPPED... YOU KNOW.
YEAH, WELL, HA, HA... I THOUGHT MAYBE IT WAS THE STRESS OR SOMETHING.

LORD ALMIGHTY... NO MATTER HOW GREAT A SOLDIER YOU ARE, ONE OF THE BOYS, WHATEVER . NOT TO KNOW ABOUT A WOMAN'S MOST IMPORTANT... sigh
COME ON, SIS! IT'S MY FIRST TIME! WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?
SAY... THIS MEANS YOU WEREN'T USING.. PROTECTION?
NO WAY, NEVER! I MEAN, WHAT COULD HAPPEN, HUH?
RIGHT ON! BESIDES, IT'S THE WOMAN'S PROBLEM, EH?
BUT, YOU KNOW..
..I'M GLAD. OUR BABY... DARD AND I.. RIGHT IN HERE...
HA, HA... I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT

OH, YEAH? WHY NOT? YOU FIGURE IT MIGHT BE SOMEONE ELSE'S..?
DON'T BE A JERK!
HEE, HEE!
WELL, WHATEVER, SISTER DEAR. IN ANY CASE--CONGRATULATIONS!
YEAH...
COME ON, BABE! LET'S SEE A BIG DOPEY SMILE, OKAY?!
BUT... DARD, JUST LOOK AT THIS WORLD WE LIVE IN. IS IT RIGHT TO BRING A LITTLE BABY INTO IT?
KARULA ...?
AND THIS WAR WITH THE EMPIRE'S ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE.
DARD, WHAT SHOULD I DO...?!
WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY, GIRL?

THINK ABOUT IT, NUMBNUTS! THEY DON'T MAKE MATERNITY ARMOR!
ARRGH! WHY NOW?! WITH THE FINAL BATTLE WITH ROMUNILIA SO CLOSE?!
KARULA! THINK ABOUT THE BABY YOU'RE CARRYING! YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY!
I KNOW, ROSALIA. HE'S THE CHILD OF THE MAN I LOVE. AND I'M HAPPY. I'M SO, SO HAPPY...
BUT FACE IT-- THE TIMING COULDN'T BE WORSE.
BECAUSE WE'LL NEVER KILL KURGH WITHOUT MY SWORD!
AND NOW THIS...
TO BE CONTINUED!!

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WELL, AT LEAST KARULA'LL STOP SWINGING THAT DEMON SWORD, NOW...
"DEMON SWORD"...?
UH... ER... NOTHIN' FORGET IT.
?! WHAT IS THAT DREADFUL COMMOTION?
HAW! JUST THE SAME OLD, SAME OLD
THEN GO SEE FOR YOURSELF! THEY'RE OUTTA HERE, ALL RIGHT!
A BUNCH OF BLOODY COWARDS IS WHAT THEY ARE! DAMN IT ALL ANYWAY!!
THOSE HEBLON SCUM JUST TURNED TAIL AND SKEDADDLED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!
I'M JUST BACK FROM THEIR CAMP-- NOT A MOTHER'S SON OF 'EM LEFT!
THE YAUZU PEOPLE'S MILITIA, TOO! SO MUCH FOR THEIR "INVINCIBLE HEAVY CAVALRY," HUH?! THE EMPIRE LIFTS ITS LITTLE FINGER AND THEY RUN BLUBBERING FOR THE HILLS!

THROW IN THE OTHER STINKIN' COWARDS, AND WE'RE DOWN TO FORTY PERCENT OF OUR PEAK STRENGTH!
DAMN! WE HAVEN'T EVEN CALLED THE UPRISING YET, AND JUST LOOK AT THIS MESS!
WELL, CHAIRMAN?!
WHAM
HM?!
IT'S ALL BECAUSE A' YOU PAPER-PUSHERS RUNNING AROUND LIKE CHICKENS WITH YER HEADS CUT OFF! IT'S CONTAGIOUS!
YOU GUYS MADE IT LOOK LIKE WE WAS ALL PEEING IN OUR PANTS!
THE END RESULT IS THAT THOSE WHO REMAIN ARE ALL THE MORE COURAGEOUS!
!?

WHOA! HEY! WHO'S THAT?! WHO'S THE BABE?!
HELL IF I KNOW, BAZZ.
DAMN IT, DARD!
KNOCK UP YOUR OLD LADY, AND WHAM, YER ALREADY MESSING WITH ANOTHER BROAD!
WHY YOU.. I OUGHTTA ...!
CALM DOWN, IDIOT. YA GOT IT ALL WRONG.
I GOT IT WRONG?! THEN WHO THE HELL IS THAT?!
I'M TELLIN' YA...
YOU MUST BE CHAIRMAN ARRAS.
AAH.. Y-YES. YES, INDEED!

I AM ROSALIA OLZEN.
MY YOUNGER SISTER KARULA OLZEN IS FEELING UNWELL. I COME HERE AS HER REPRESENTATIVE.
IS THIS ACCEPTABLE?
KRASH!
R-ROSALIA .. ROSALIA OLZEN?! NOT ROSALIA, QUEEN OF LEDOMIAM ...?!
ALL GRIFFELL HAS HEARD HOW YOU SAVED YOUR AILING FATHER KING OLZEN FROM THE EMPIRE, AND HOW SPLENDIDLY YOU LED LEDOMIAM IN THAT DESPERATE WAR!
BRILLIANT LEGEND PRECEDES YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS!
AAH, TO IMAGINE THAT SUCH AN EXALTED LEADER SHOULD DEIGN TO JOIN OUR COUNCIL..!
I, ARRAS OF AKOGILAND, AM AT YOUR COMMAND!
OH, NO... YOU ARE TOO KIND.
SNAK

AH, UH, UH.. I'M BAZZ! BORN IN RADOM!
I, ER... I GOT T'KNOW YOUR SISTER AT THE BATTLE OF RADOM!
OH, YOU'RE BAZZ...? MY SISTER TELLS ME YOU'VE BEEN SUCH A STRENGTH TO HER! THANK YOU!
B-BEGGIN' YER PARDON, MA'AM, BUT I AIN'T NOTHIN' SPECIAL! IN FACT, SHE HAULED MY SORRY ASS OUTTA TH--
ROLL YER TONGUE BACK INTO YER MOUTH AND ZIP IT, YA LUMMOX!
EXCUSE ME, GENTLEMEN. MAY I TROUBLE YOU WITH MY THOUGHTS IN THIS MATTER?
I BELIEVE THAT CHAIRMAN ARRAS EXAGGERATED THE IMPERIAL THREAT FOR A GOOD REASON
I BELIEVE HE WAS SELECTING OUT THE VERY BEST WARRIORS.
TRUE HEROES WHO WILL NOT FLINCH BEFORE THE ONSLAUGHT OF THE IMPERIAL FLEET.
YOU CANNOT HOPE TO DEFEAT THE EMPIRE BY NUMBERS ALONE.
YOU MEN GATHERED HERE TODAY WERE CHOSEN BY THE CHAIRMAN FOR YOUR STERLING QUALITIES.
....!?
YOU GOT IT!

OKAY, LESSEE... THE EMPIRE'S DEFENSES ARE THIN ON THE LEFT FLANK.
FIRST FLEET GOES RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE AS PLANNED. ONCE YOU BREAK THROUGH, FAN OUT TO THE LEFT AND RIGHT.
SECOND FLEET AND THIRD FLEET SUPPORT THE MAIN AXIS OF ATTACK.
GOT IT! A MAP OF THE CAPITAL'S SEWERS AND SERVICE TUNNELS!
MAINOHTA AND THE IRON DUKE'LL HARRASS AND DELAY THEIR MAIN BATTLE GROUP
THE RAJENDORA'S GOT A THICK SKIN. SHE CAN SOAK UP THE PUNISHMENT AND SLUG IT OUT TOE-TO-TOE.
HEH. CHECK IT OUT!
YOU'VE CRACKED THEIR CODES WIDE OPEN?! AWESOME, DUDE!
ONCE YOU'VE MADE YOUR RUN, BANK RIGHT AND PULL UP HARD.
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE THEIR TRIPLE-A!
AH, SUCH VIRGINAL BEAUTY! AND HER DAZZLING SMILE, LIKE A VERY GODDESS!
BAZZ, YOU LEAD THE LEFT WING. HEY?! ARE YA LISTENING TO ME?!

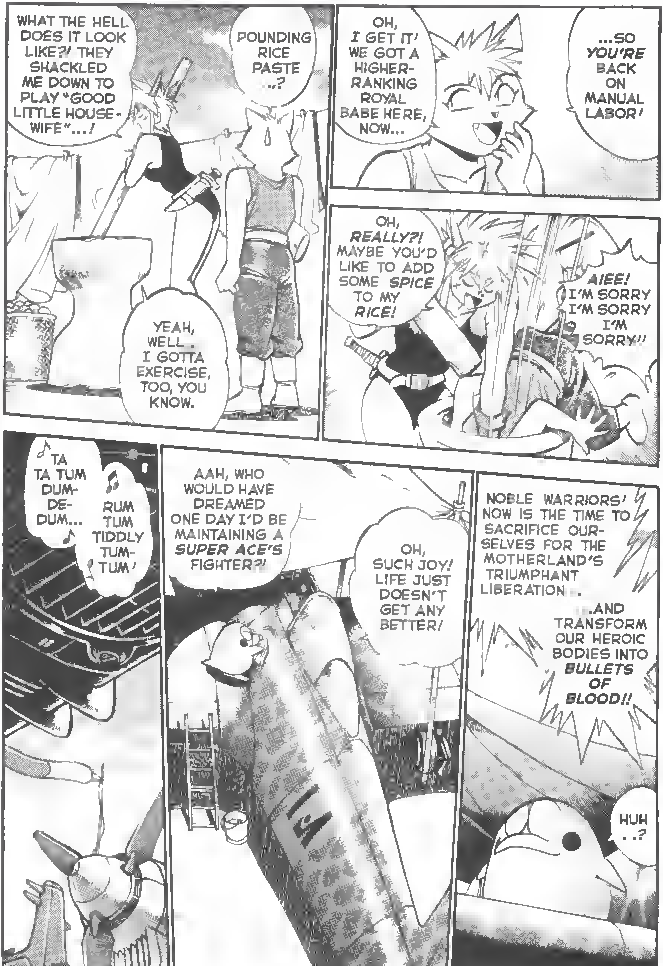
WELL, NO DOUBT... YOU SAVED THE DAY.
TRULY YOU DESERVE YOUR REPUTATION, YOUR HIGHNESS. YOU PULLED THAT CROWD OF BRUISERS INTO A TEAM JUST LIKE *THAT.*
ARRAS HAS LEARNED MUCH THIS DAY
DON'T BE TOO MODEST. AFTER ALL, YOU PUT ALL THE PIECES IN PLACE, CHAIRMAN.
FRANKLY, I'M OF A MIND TO LEAVE AKOGILAND IN YOUR COMPETENT HANDS WELL? HOW ABOUT IT, MY LADY?
EH?!
YOU JEST... AKOGILAND ALREADY HAS A LEADER, NO? IT HAS *YOU,* CHAIRMAN!
NO, NO NO... IF THIS WAS STILL JUST A FREE TRADE CITY, I MIGHT BE GOOD ENOUGH.
BUT AKOGILAND HAS BECOME A *CITY STATE,* MILITARIZED AND SWOLLEN WITH NEW CITIZENS.

WITHOUT THE LEADERSHIP OF A CONSUMMATE AND PROFESSIONAL POLITICIAN, IT COULD ALL COME TUMBLING DOWN
NO, I INSIST, LADY ROSALIA!
BUT..
AKOGILAND IS NOT TO YOUR TASTE, PERHAPS ?
OH, NO!! NOT AT ALL! THIS IS A WONDERFUL PLACE, SO VITAL AND FREE!
AND I AM TRULY GRATEFUL THAT YOU HOLD ME IN SUCH HIGH REGARD
HOWEVER
.. IF I, THE FORMER QUEEN OF LEDOMIAM, BECAME LEADER OF THIS SEAT OF REBELLION, THEN WHAT WOULD BECOME OF MY PEOPLE?
THEY ARE ALREADY SUFFERING UNDER THE JACKBOOT OF IMPERIAL OCCUPATION
I SEE. YES, THERE'S NOTHING THE EMPIRE WOULDN'T STOOP TO..
IF THAT'S THE SITUATION, THEN I TOO HAVE NO CHOICE.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
BUT DON'T THINK I WON'T HELP! INDEED, I'LL DO ANYTHING WITHIN MY POWER!

AND NOW, MY LADY-- A WARNING.
PARDON?
WELL, THIS IS STILL ONLY RUMOR, UNDER-STAND.
..BUT WE HEAR THAT EMPEROR KURGH HAS ISSUED PRIORITY ORDERS: "DO ANYTHING--MOVE HEAVEN AND EARTH-- TO CAPTURE THE OLZEN SISTERS ALIVE."
WHAT ?!?
THAT SLIMY WORM KURGH SAYS HE'S GONNA MARRY LADY ROSALIA?!
YOU GOTTA BE JOKING!
WHOA! CALM DOWN, BAZZ! IT'S STILL JUST A RUMOR--
"CALM DOWN"..? HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO CALM DOWN?! THAT SICK, TWISTED LITTLE GRUB!! I'LL--
LISTEN! THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.

AS KURGH SEES IT, HE'S NOT GOING TO WANT HIS BRIDE HURT OR DAMAGED IN ANY WAY.
IN OTHER WORDS, BEFORE THE REAL FIGHTING STARTS, HE MAY TRY TO STEAL HER BACK.
HMM. YEAH, MAKES SENSE
SO. . DOES HE KNOW THE QUEEN IS HERE?
WHEN THE EMPEROR COMMANDS, HIS TROOPS MUST SUCCEED OR DIE
WE HAVE TO ASSUME.
UNFORTUNATELY, LADY ROSALIA DOESN'T SEEM WORRIED. SHE SAYS SHE'S SAFE SURROUNDED BY ALL THESE BRAVE WARRIORS, WITH HER SISTER AT HER SIDE
THAT'S JUST PLAIN DUMB! OBVIOUSLY SHE--
SO, AS I WAS SAYING.. IN ANY CASE, WE NEED TO ROUND UP THE BEST FIGHTERS WE HAVE TO PROTECT HER.
YOU GOT IT, BOSS!! THAT'S MY JOB! LEAVE IT TO BAZZ!
I WON'T LET THAT CRAWLIN' BUG MAN LAY A CLAW ON HER!

DAMN IT!! WHO THE HELL DO THEY THINK THEY ARE, ANY WAY?!
WHDWHD
DARD AND SIS.. BOTH OF THEM!
SURE I GOTTA TAKE CARE OF THE KID I'M CARRYING!
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I GET INTO FIGHTS ALL THE TIME, EVERY DAY!
IS THIS ANY WAY TO TREAT YOUR "DEAR LITTLE SISTER" ...?!
CLANK
HNNRRGH!!
YOU'D THINK THEY DIDN'T TRUST ME!
KRNCH
UM... IF YOU DON'T MIND ME ASKING, MA'AM...


WHAT THE HELL DOES IT LOOK LIKE?! THEY SHACKLED ME DOWN TO PLAY "GOOD LITTLE HOUSE-WIFE"...!
POUNDING RICE PASTE ...?
YEAH, WELL... I GOTTA EXERCISE, TOO, YOU KNOW.
OH, I GET IT! WE GOT A HIGHER-RANKING ROYAL BABE HERE, NOW...
...SO YOU'RE BACK ON MANUAL LABOR!
OH, REALLY?! MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO ADD SOME SPICE TO MY RICE!
AIEE! I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M SORRY!!
♪ TA TA TUM DUM-DE-DUM... ♪
♪ RUM TUM TIDDLY TUM-TUM! ♪
AAH, WHO WOULD HAVE DREAMED ONE DAY I'D BE MAINTAINING A SUPER ACE'S FIGHTER?!
OH, SUCH JOY! LIFE JUST DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER!
NOBLE WARRIORS! NOW IS THE TIME TO SACRIFICE OUR-SELVES FOR THE MOTHERLAND'S TRIUMPHANT LIBERATION...
...AND TRANSFORM OUR HEROIC BODIES INTO BULLETS OF BLOOD!!
HUH ..?

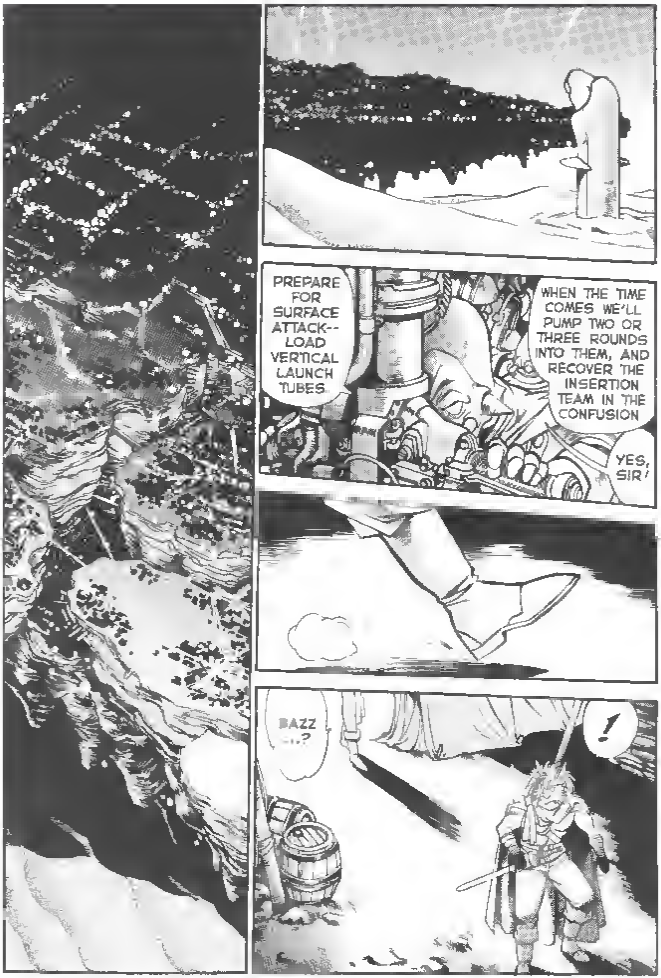
WOULD YOU LISTEN TO THAT CRAP?! BUNCHA LOUD-MOUTHS!
THUMP
TH UMP
WHAT KINDA IDIOTS TALK ABOUT A "MOTHER-LAND" ANYMORE?!
WHUPS!
YEEP--
YANK
HMM?!
AAAA?!
SKSH
OF ALL THE IMPERTI-NENCE!

W-WAIT A SECOND! THIS IS A...
FWHOOSH
HAIEE
...A NOSJIR KAMIKAZE MISSILE!!
KICHAK
AH, EXCELLENT! ANOTHER STALWART VOLUNTEER FOR THE SPECIAL ATTACK FORCE, EH?!
ACK! NO! NO! I'M JUST, ER...
NOW, NOW, LAD! COME TREAD IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE NOSJIR GOD WARRIOR MASAHIKO!
EH ?
HUH?!
"GOD WARRIOR MASAHIKO"?!
INDEED! THE SELFLESS HERO WHO MAGNIFICENTLY AND SINGLE-HANDEDLY PULVERIZED THE TREACHEROUS BOHTON, HEINOUS BOSVANIAN RUNNING DOG OF IMPERIAL AGGRESSION!
MISCREANT! HAVE YOU NEVER PRAYED BEFORE HIS STATUE IN THE CAPITAL?!

I DUNNO ABOUT MASAHIKO— THE LITTLE DWEEB DIDN'T COME BACK LAST NIGHT, EITHER.
I WONDER WHAT HE'S UP TO? USUALLY HE'S SUCH A SCAREDY-CAT HE WON'T EVEN GO OUT AFTER DARK.
IF HE A MAN, HE BE OKAY.
BUT TO POINT. YOU PLAN ATTACK IMPERIAL CAPITAL, YES?
YEP! KARULA AND DARD ARE GETTING ALL READY!
ALL SANDCRAB KNOW. AND WE KNOW SECRET WAY
EH?
SANDCRAB KNOW ROAD TO EMPIRE CASTLE THAT NO OTHER KNOW.

IS THIS TRUE, ARGUS?
YES, SPEAK TRUE, SPEAK NO LIE. SAND RIVERS FOUL FROM FILTH EMPIRE DUMP UNDERGROUND! BIG STINK!
SO .. IF YOU FOLLOW THE SEWAGE BACK, WE CAN PROBABLY GET INTO THEIR CITY THE SAME WAY. RIGHT?
WELL, DARD? WE CAN USE THIS, DON'T YOU THINK?
DAMN STRAIGHT. AKOGILAND HITS 'EM FROM THE OUTSIDE, AND WE STRIKE FROM BELOW.
YOU SANDCRABS CAN SWIM UP THESE SAND RIVERS, RIGHT?!
AYE .. ARGUS GO, BRING MANY FRIEND!
THANK YOU!

JUST WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
HOW DARE YOU DISGUSTING HAIRY BRUTES BARGE INTO MY MISTRESS' CHAMBER?!
CHILL, TOOTS! WE IS HERE TO PROTECT LADY ROSALIA, SEE?!
NO WAY! I PROTECT MISTRESS ROSALIA, UNDERSTAND?!
SO GET OUT!
YA DUMB BROAD! WHAT CAN A WIMPY LITTLE THING LIKE YOU DO?!
NOW, NOW, BOTH OF YOU! ENOUGH!
LOOK, RUA, IT'S JUST A PRECAUTION, OKAY? I'LL HAVE THEM GUARD OUTSIDE THE TENT
JUST RELAX. THESE ARE TRUST-WORTHY MEN
HAH! I JUST BET!!
THE ONLY REASON A MAN EVER HELPS A WOMAN IS WHEN HE'S GOT THE HOTS FOR HER!
DOUBLE HAH! LOOK WHO'S TALKING, YA OVERSEXED LITTLE SAND-WORM!


PREPARE FOR SURFACE ATTACK-- LOAD VERTICAL LAUNCH TUBES.
WHEN THE TIME COMES WE'LL PUMP TWO OR THREE ROUNDS INTO THEM, AND RECOVER THE INSERTION TEAM IN THE CONFUSION
YES, SIR!
BAZZ ...?
!

THANK YOU FOR LOOKING OUT FOR US.
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME HOT TEA?
AH, AH, GOSH, Y-YA SHOULDN'T! DON'T WORRY 'BOUT ME! I'M... AH... ON DUTY, MA'AM!
NOW, NOW. DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, BAZZ. I KNOW YOU'RE COLD AND TIRED.
COME ON - HERE.
I ACCEPT, MY FAIR LADY!!
OH! G... GOOD.

MM... YOU REALLY ARE A WARRIOR. SUCH BIG, POWERFUL HANDS.
AW, HELL, MA'AM! I'M SORRY!
-tee hee-
TO THINK I'M BEING PROTECTED BY SUCH A BRAVE WARRIOR! NOW I CAN SLEEP IN PEACE...
NOW, PLEASE-- BEFORE IT GETS COLD.
Y-Y-YES, MA'AM!!
TH-THANK YOU! IT WAS S-S-SUPERB!
GOOD! I'M COUNTING ON YOU, BAZZ!
!!
GET BACK TO YOUR POSTS, YA LOUSY GOOD-FER-NOTHING PEEPING TOMS!!
AND TIGHTEN THE WATCH! IF SO MUCH AS A BABY ANT GETS THROUGH, I'LL SKIN YOU ALL ALIVE!

WHAT WAS *THAT* ALL ABOUT?
LUNATICS ...!
KARULA, THOSE GUARDS. .
YEAH, I HEARD ABOUT IT, TOO. KURGH'S GUNNING FOR ME AND YOU, RIGHT?
HMPH! DO THEY REALLY THINK SOME LOUSY IMPERIAL AGENT CAN CATCH *ME* NAPPING?!
SEND ME YOUR BEST! SEND A *MILLION* OF 'EM!
FWHT
I'LL SLICE 'EM AND DICE 'EM!
WHOOSH
STOP ACTING LIKE AN IDIOT, KARULA! YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR PRECIOUS LITTLE BABY, AND THAT'S *ALL!*
THIS IS GETTING OLD. .
YOU LISTEN TO ME! THAT CHILD IS THE *MOST* IMPORTANT THING NOW!
YES, YES, DEAR SISTER POINT TAKEN.

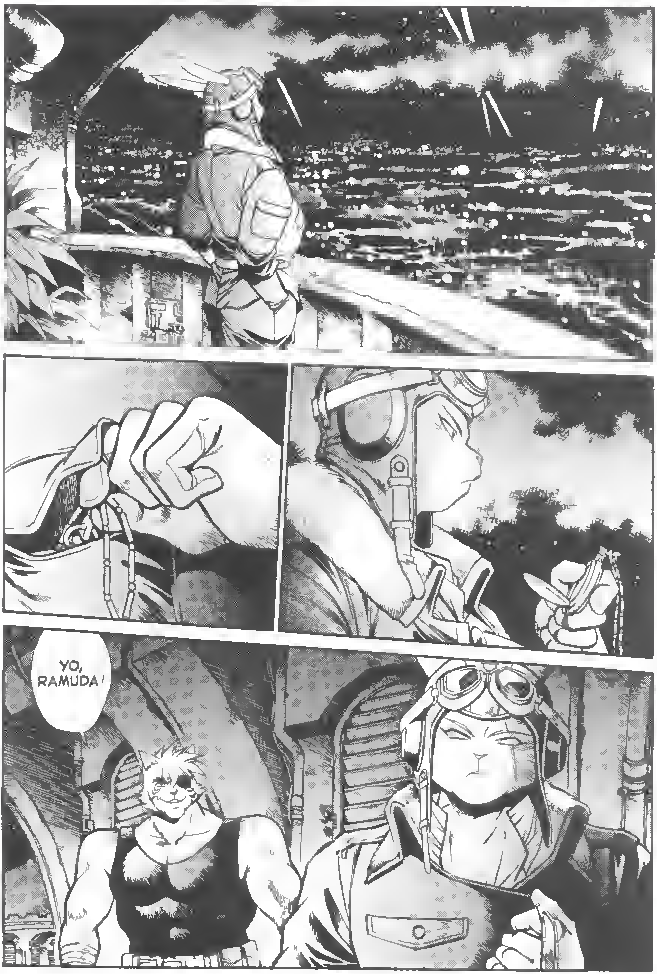
HMM. QUITE THE GUARD THEY'VE PUT UP
YES. BUT OF COURSE, TO US SUCH THINGS ARE MEANING-LESS
THEN SHALL WE GO IN AND PICK UP THE LADIES ..?
WAIT!
WHAT IS THIS I SENSE ..?
SHINGG

HAH! I DON'T CARE WHO COMES FOR US-- THEYRE DEAD MEAT!
AS LONG AS I'VE GOT MY SWORD...
MMM... I COULD JUST DROWN IN YOUR BEAUTIFUL SHEEN!
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I SEE YOU...
IT'S A DEMON SWORD-- POWER RATING OFF THE SCALE.
COULD IT BE THE SWORD THE EMPEROR USED TO CONTROL KARULA? THE ONE THAT FELLED GUSTAV?
A DEMON SWORD NEVER CHANGES MASTERS.. IT LIVES AND DIES AS PART OF ITS OWNER, BOUND BY A WEB OF POWER.

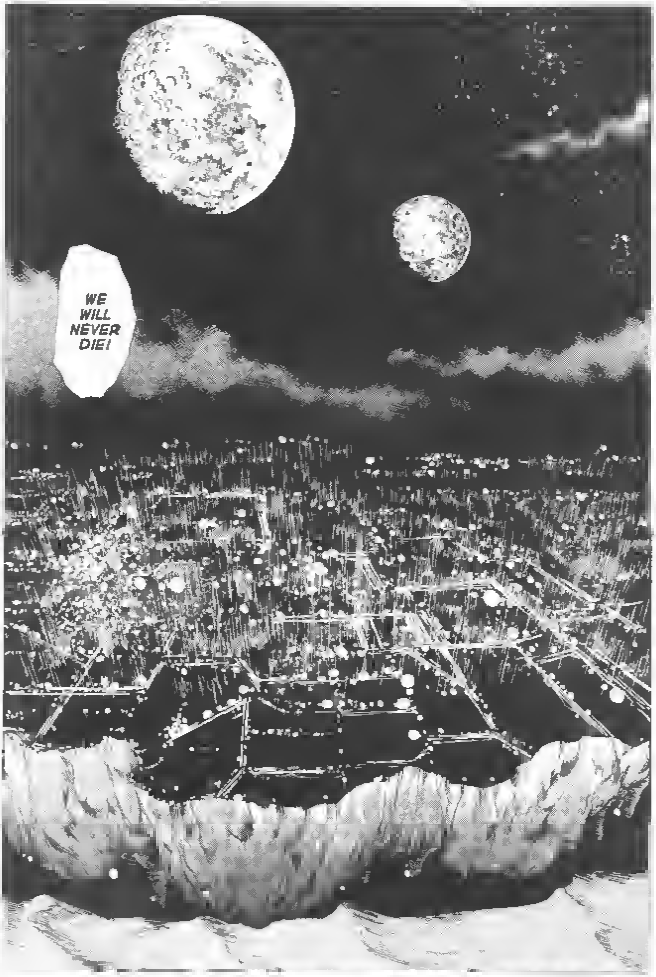
REMEMBER THAT WHEN YOU TAKE THEM!
UMM .?
MISTRESS ROSALIA... DEAR?
RUA! RUA, STOP THAT!
OH, LATELY MY MISTRESS IS SO COLD...
BE REASONABLE, RUA! MY LITTLE SISTER'S HERE AND .
..WELL, WE'VE SO LITTLE PRIVACY. .
SO? SO?!
WHY ARE YOU SO ASHAMED OF OUR RELATIONSHIP?! WHY CAN'T TWO WOMEN SHARE THEIR LOVE?!

YOU'RE RIGHT, MY DEAR. LET'S GO TO BED.
BESIDES I'LL NEVER GET A WINK OF SLEEP OTHERWISE
YAHOO!
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO PROMISE THAT YOU'LL GO RIGHT TO SLEEP WHEN WE'RE DONE!
OH, MISTRESS! I LOVE YOU!
MMPH!
SMOOCH!

GNNNNN
NO WORK SINCE WE'S GOT HERE! OH, LORDY...
AH'M SO HUNGRY
OH, ROSALIA BABY, SEND US ANOTHER SUGAR MOMMA LIKE YOU...


YO, RAMUDA!

I HEAR YOU'RE GOING TO BE A FATHER
CONGRATULATIONS
YEAH.. GOT ME ANOTHER "BABE" TO PROTECT, NOW. WHAT A PAIN, HUH?
HA HA HA!
GUESS NEITHER OF US CAN AFFORD TO DIE ANYMORE, EH?!
YES... YES, INDEED!
WE WILL NOT DIE, MY FRIEND!



TO BE CONCLUDED IN *DRAKUUN: FLAMES OF EMPIRE!*